GSIS allots ₱5B to buy out teachers' loans

STORY ON PAGE A2

IN *Saturday***SPECIAL**

STILES

▨ Julia Stiles goes beyond cute and airy teen portrayals
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2001 ★★ 66 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 174 ₱15

Gag Palace gabster, asks Biazon

BY MARTIN MARFIL, ARMAND NOCUM AND STELLA GONZALES

WAG KAYONG MAGULO!

LEAVE military matters to military men.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former Armed Forces

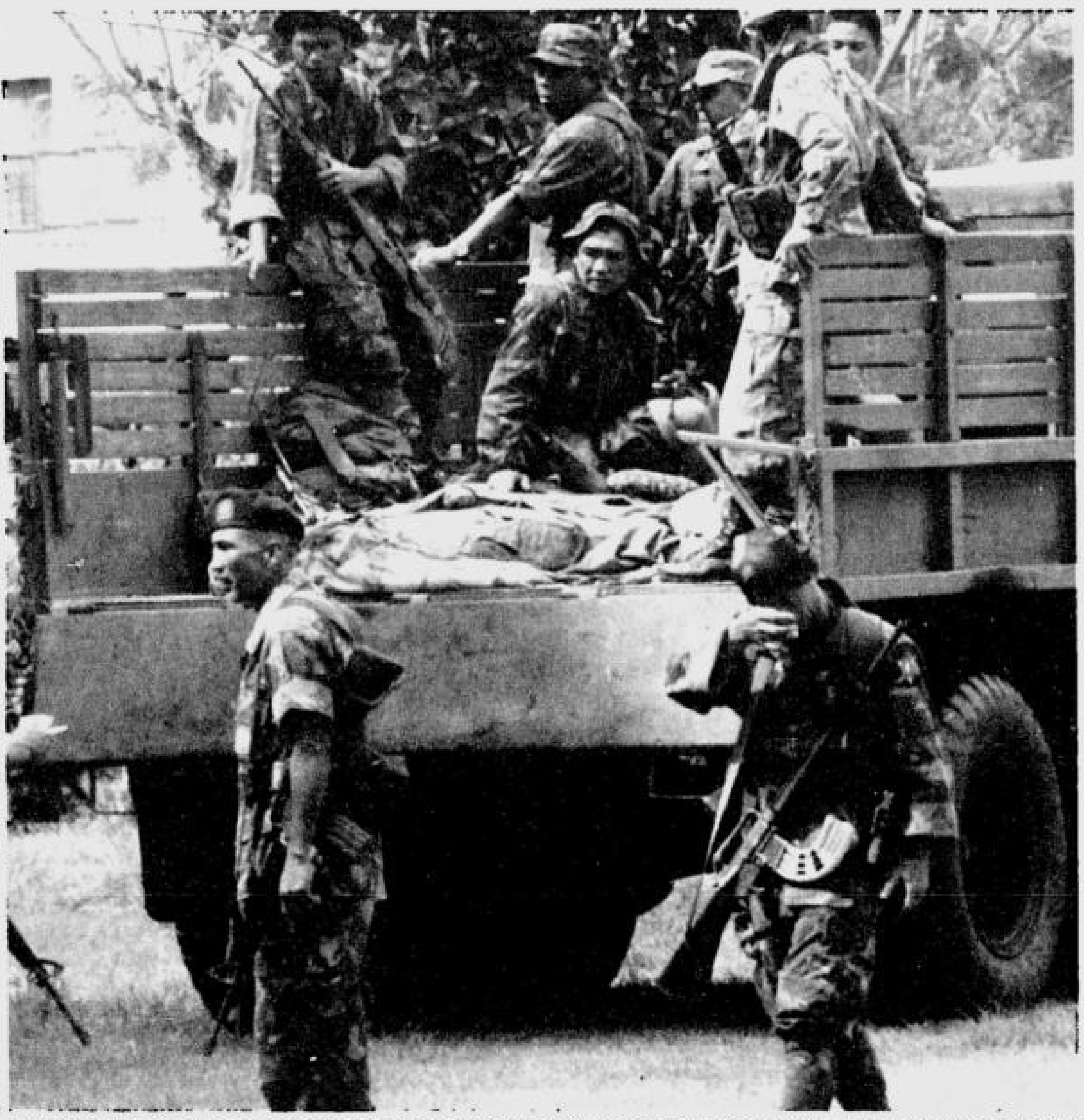
GAG/ A15

Troops, Abu clash; no sign of hostages

2 soldiers slain, 14 hurt in 1st encounter with bandits

DENNIS SABANGAN

"NO INTERVIEWS, please," AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva tells the media inside the military camp in Isabela, Basilan.



GRIEF is etched on the faces of the soldiers as they view their fallen comrades with one unable to look for the tears in his eyes. Their comrade-in-arms fell at Lamitan, Basilan, where the military operation against the Abu Sayyaf bandits is escalating.

DENNIS SABANGAN

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT, JONATHAN F. MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

TUBURAN, Basilan—Government troops clashed with the bandit group Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Bohe Bessey here early yesterday, leaving two soldiers dead and 14 others wounded.

Col. Jose Mendoza, spokesperson of the Southern Command media bureau, refused to name those killed or to say whether the bandits had their hostages with them during the clash.

Of the wounded, only one was identified—1st Lt. Franklin Fabic, commanding officer of the 18th Infantry Battalion and a 1995 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

The wounded were airlifted to Zamboanga City yesterday afternoon.

It was the first contact made with the Abu Sayyaf since it raided the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27 and took 17 Filipinos and three Americans hostage.

Around 6 last night, heavy rains began to pour without letup. Not long afterwards, a scheduled power blackout plunged parts of Basilan in darkness.

Earlier in Manila, Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said forces of the 32nd Infantry Battalion clashed with about 100

TROOPS/ A16

Power bill railroaded, excluded solons cry

BY DONNA S. CUETO, CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

THE HOUSE of Representatives ratified a bicameral committee "report" on the controversial power reform bill at 4 a.m. yesterday hours after the four-day special session called by President Macapagal-Arroyo had lapsed, raising allegations that its approval was railroaded.

In a last ditch effort to stop the passage of the bill, which they describe as the betrayal of the President's commitment to the poor, civil society groups vowed to launch protest rallies on Monday.

The Senate is set to deliberate on the measure, which seeks to restructure the power industry and privatize the National Power Corp., when the 11th Congress resumes its last four days of regular session on Monday.

But getting the measure approved in the Senate may not be easy.

Senators led by Juan Ponce Enrile plan to question the circumstances behind the signing of the reconciled version of the power bill Thursday night by the bicameral conference committee.

Enrile was excluded from the seven-member Senate panel when the bicameral committee adopted the reconciled version.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) said the committee approved the reconciled version Thursday night only after excluding members opposed to the measure.

Eleven out of the 17 members of the House panel, including party-list Rep. Etta Rosales of Akbayan and Rep. Tet Garcia of Bataan, were also excluded from the bicameral proceedings, according to the FDC.

"Have they sunk this low that they had to exclude legislators who oppose the bill?" FDC president

POWER/ A4

Soldiers up against warrior class

BY CARLITO PABLO

THEY may come across as a ragtag army wearing makeshift uniforms, scarves and bonnets instead of regulation combat fatigues and headgear.

But make no mistake with Abu Sayyaf fighters, for in their veins runs the blood of generations of Tausug warriors.

Retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia, former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, aired this advice as government troops began engaging the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan yesterday, five days after the bandit group raided the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan and took hostage 17 Filipinos and three Americans.

"Tausugs are born warriors," Abadia said. "At an early age they learn the rudiments of fighting, starting with simple tasks like dismantling a rifle."

Abadia knows whereof he speaks. As a major and, later, a lieutenant colonel, he fought in Basilan and Sulu from 1973 to 1977 against

SOLDIERS/ A15

COMELEC

as of 11:30 a.m., June 1
100 out of 102 COCs (98.03%)

1	DE CASTRO	16,046,884
2	FLAVIER	11,556,961
3	OSMEÑA	11,435,288
4	DRILON	11,103,721
5	MAGSAYSAY	11,068,621
6	ARROYO	11,022,195
7	VILLAR	10,957,121
8	PANGILINAN	10,767,524
9	ANGARA	10,698,323
10	LACSON	10,536,807
11	EJERCITO	10,400,420
12	HONASAN	10,299,082
13	RECTO	10,233,785
14	ENRILE	9,551,390
15	SANTIAGO	9,522,472
16	PUNO	8,620,044
17	TAÑADA	7,994,628
18	MERCADO	7,760,321
19	PAGDANGANAN	6,993,727
20	HERRERA	6,647,655

Recto loses extra votes but clings to 13th slot

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

MORE "padded" votes would be deducted from 13th placer Ralph Recto but he was still leading Juan Ponce Enrile by more than 600,000 votes after the votes from Eastern Samar were counted yesterday.

The National Board of Canvassers (NBC) had earlier ruled that 79,000 votes found padded in the certificates of canvass (COC) of Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga del Norte be deducted from Recto.

Lawyers of the Puwersa ng Masa believed Recto himself had something to do with the padding of his votes in at least four provinces in Mindanao.

But Recto's lawyers accused the PnM of tampering with the election forms to pad Recto's votes so that they could support an electoral protest against the current 13th placer.

"The tampering was done in a way that it could be easily detected," said Romulo Macalintal, Recto's lawyer. "Somebody out there clearly wants to make it appear that Recto did the tampering so he could be charged with election fraud," he said.

Former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez said the PnM had no evidence to directly implicate Recto in the vote padding, but he said the PPC senatorial candidate clearly benefited from the additional votes.

"In criminal cases, circumstantial evidence can lead to conviction," Rodriguez said.

The votes from Eastern Samar hardly made a dent on the standings in the Magic 13. It was still 8-4-1 for the administration's People Power Coalition.

With only the certificates of canvass from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao yet to be canvassed, independent Noli de Castro has already breached the 16-million mark.

A deduction of 15,078 votes from Recto and a 9,000 lead by Enrile over him in Eastern Samar

RECTO/ A4

No water for 2.9M in Metro

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN, STELLA O. GONZALES AND TJ BURGONIO

NOT EVEN a plastic drawer used for keeping her baby's toys was spared when Jane, a 32-year-old mother in Caloocan City, scrounged around for containers in preparation for a dreaded water service disruption scheduled to last from 9:00 last night until 9 p.m. Monday.

She is one of 2.9 million Metro Manilans—accounting for roughly 65% of 4.5 million clients of Maynilad Water Services Inc.—who are expected to lose the most basic of services while the company upgrades its pipeline network supplying water to the metropolis' West Zone.

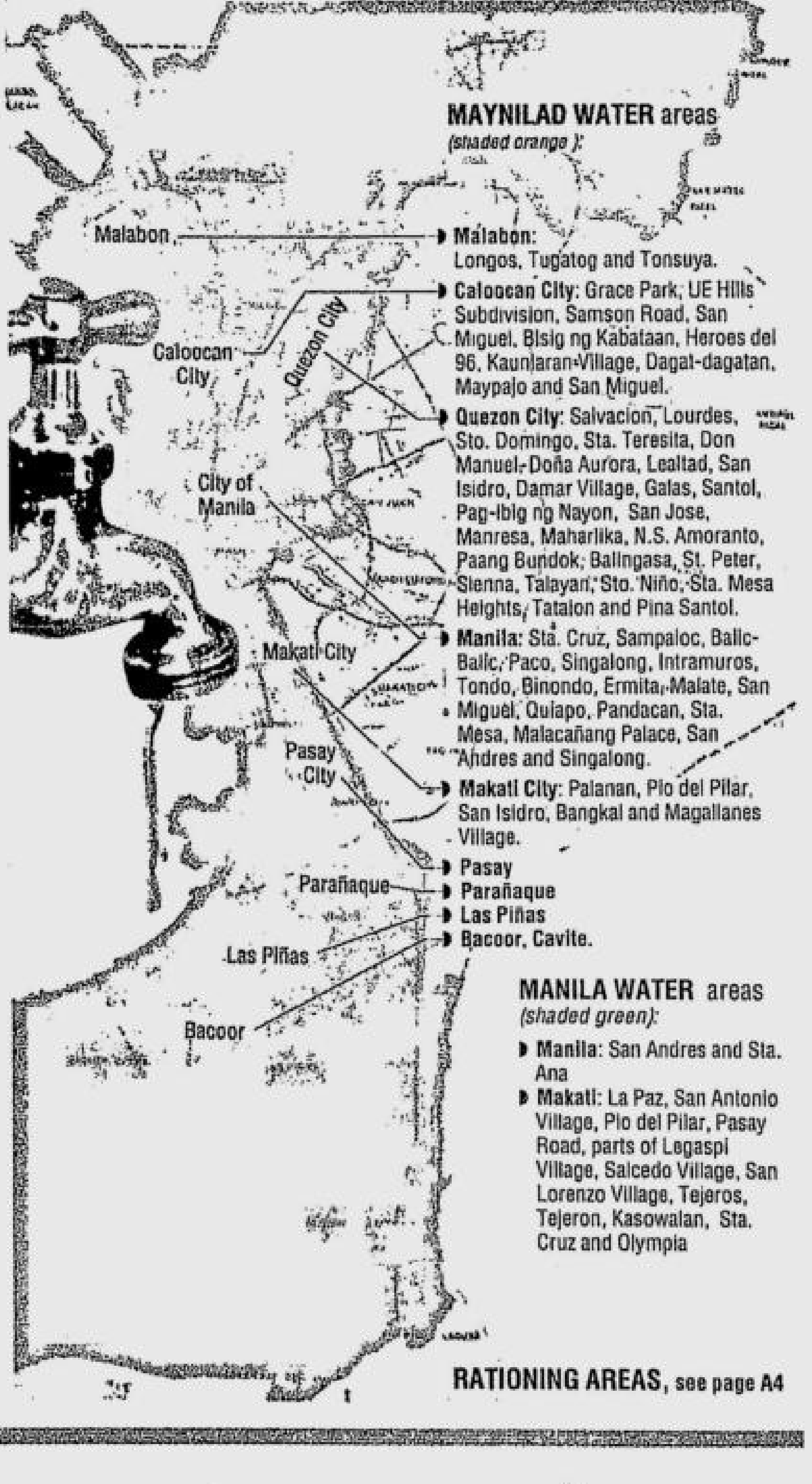
Several areas covered by the Metro's other concessionaire, Manila Water, which is also upgrading its network, will also be affected by the work on nine interconnection and valve insertion projects. ***(For specific areas affected, see map.)***

Maynilad information director Jess Matubis assured the public yesterday that the water supply would be adequate during the 72-hour service "interruption," with the deployment of 86 tankers from the company and 86 more from the Bureau of Fire Protection.

"We have also coordinated with the local government units and fire volunteers and they assured us that they would be fielding their own tankers," Matubis told the INQUIRER

NO WATER/ A4

WATERLESS AREAS



MAYNILAD WATER areas *(shaded orange):*

- **Malabon:** Longos, Tugatog and Tonsuya.
- **Caloocan City:** Grace Park, UE Hills Subdivision, Samson Road, San Miguel, Bisig ng Kabataan, Heroes del 96, Kaunlaran Village, Dagat-dagatan, Maypajo and San Miguel.
- **Quezon City:** Salvacion, Lourdes, Sto. Domingo, Sta. Teresita, Don Manuel-Doña Aurora, Lealtad, San Isidro, Damar Village, Galas, Santol, Pag-ibig ng Nayon, San Jose, Manresa, Maharlika, N.S. Amoranto, Paang Bundok, Balingasa, St. Peter, Sienna, Talayan, Sto. Niño, Sta. Mesa Heights, Tatalon and Pina Santol.
- **Manila:** Sta. Cruz, Sampaloc, Balic-Balic, Paco, Singalong, Intramuros, Tondo, Binondo, Ermita, Malate, San Miguel, Quiapo, Pandacan, Sta. Mesa, Malacañang Palace, San Andres and Singalong.
- **Makati City:** Palanan, Pio del Pilar, San Isidro, Bangkal and Magallanes Village.
- **Pasay**
- **Parañaque**
- **Las Piñas**
- **Bacoor, Cavite.**

MANILA WATER areas *(shaded green):*

- **Manila:** San Andres and Sta. Ana
- **Makati:** La Paz, San Antonio Village, Pio del Pilar, Pasay Road, parts of Legaspi Village, Salcedo Village, San Lorenzo Village, Tejeros, Tejeron, Kasowalan, Sta. Cruz and Olympia

RATIONING AREAS, see page A4

Gov't to buy out teachers' debts

GSIS allots P5B for loan restructuring scheme

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT, through the Government Service Insurance System, will buy out some P5-billion worth of teachers' loans from private lending and insurance firms in a planned loan restructuring program of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Under an agreement with the DECS, the GSIS will assume the loans from the smallest 50 lending firms patronized by the country's half a million public schoolteachers.

The memorandum of agreement, which was signed by Education Secretary Raul Roco and GSIS president Wilson Garcia on Thursday, also provided for a special lending window for teachers and school employees, aside from an existing salary loan program.

Over-borrowing

"But we are asking the teachers to please not borrow again or over-borrow because we can't run after your loans," Roco said at a press briefing on Thursday.

If you over-borrow, you will always be working for the lenders," he warned.

The GSIS is setting aside P5 billion to buy out the teachers' loans, amounting to about P11 billion, from the smallest lending firms.

The teachers will then pay their loans at the GSIS, at a much lower interest rate of 14 percent.

Public schoolteachers, who are heavily indebted on top of being underpaid, have been paying for these loans at an interest rate of 40 to 100 percent. Thus, they manage to take home only a fourth of their total monthly salary.

The DECS deducts the loan payments from the teachers' salaries and remits these to 187 lending and insurance firms accredited by the department.

'Biggest collector'

Roco, outraged at the practice, has called the DECS the "biggest collector" in the country.

The education secretary said the loan buy-out would help ease the financial burden of public schoolteachers, who constitute 36 percent of the GSIS's total membership.

He said, however, that only the smallest firms would be involved in the arrangement as he did not want any organization, no matter that it is a government entity, to have a monopoly of teachers' loans.

According to the agreement, the GSIS would make available to public schoolteachers and DECS employees "special loans for the purpose of prepaying or refinancing their loans with private lending institutions."

Eligibility is to be determined by the parties to the agreement, that is, the DECS and the GSIS.

'Dep't of Teachers'

Roco, who was appointed head of the country's largest bureaucracy in February, has made the restructuring of teachers' loans the priority of the DECS under his administration.

He vowed that the DECS, often called the most corrupt government agency, would be known as the "department of teachers" under his watch.

"We help them, so later they can serve the country better," Roco said. "How can you teach well when you're always worried about your finances?"

Teachers' pet: Roco scraps textbook fines

A WEEK after discontinuing the practice of collecting cash contributions from public school students, Education Secretary Raul Roco has followed up with another liberalizing move, this time to ease the financial burden of teachers.

Roco has ordered a stop to the practice of fining teachers for the loss of textbooks by their students during the schoolyear.

Under DECS Order 23, Roco said school officials should stop collecting fines and deducting money from teachers' salaries to pay for any class' failure to return instructional materials owned by the school.

"That makes life even harder for our teachers. They are made to account for the sins of others, as if they are well-compensated," Roco said during a press briefing on Thursday.

He noted that this practice of financially sanctioning the teachers has made them unreasonably strict with the use of reference books, which remain locked up inside shelves and inaccessible to students.

Roco said any principals, superintendents or supervisors continuing the practice of fining teachers "would be dealt with accordingly."

"We have talked to the funding agencies, and we can afford to lose 10 percent," Roco said.

Teachers would be made to be responsible for losses beyond this "breakage" provision of 10 percent, Roco said. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Good news for South: No FMD

By C. D. Balana

HERE'S some good news for Mindanao for a change.

An international health organization has declared Mindanao a foot-and-mouth disease free zone, thereby allowing the export of animals and animal products and by-products from the region to any place in the world.

The stamp of approval was given by the World Organization for Animal Health of the Office Internationale Des Epizootics (OIE) at its 69th general session in Paris, France, on May 30.

The 160 members of the organization unanimously approved Resolution No. 17 entitled Recognition of the Foot and Mouth Disease Status of Member Countries. The resolution included Mindanao as an FMD-free area without the need for animal vaccination.

"This would strengthen the government thrust of making Mindanao the food basket of the country," said Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

The Philippines is set to seek similar FMD-free status for the Visayas and Palawan later this year, it was learned. If approved, nearly half of the country's livestock population would be deemed FMD-free.

The Bureau of Animal Industry placed the country's livestock population at 24 million in January this year.

FMD is a viral disease thus it has no cure. It affects pigs, carabaos, cattle, sheep, goats—all hooved animals.

When infected, animals get a fever and lesions in the mouth, tongue and skin near their hooves. As a result, they cannot eat, become weak and susceptible to other diseases, and eventually die. FMD is not transmissible to humans.

Earlier, the DA banned the entry of beef products from the United Kingdom after these were found to be contaminated with mad cow disease.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or mad cow disease can be transmitted to humans where it afflicts the brain and causes death.

Included in the ban were pork products from France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Denmark.

Dr. Carolyn Canda-Benigno, head of the National FMD Task Force, and Dr. Ronello Abila, National Veterinary Quarantine Services chief, attended the Paris meeting. Both are government veterinarians from the BAI.

The DA has reported a 77.4-percent decline in FMD cases in the country for the first quarter of this year compared to the same period last year.

As of April this year, only 33 cases of FMD in eight provinces and Metro Manila affecting 304 pigs were reported.

The number is much lower than the 146 cases reported in 17 provinces and Metro Manila affecting 1,964 pigs for the same period last year.

The DA attributed the decline to the FMD task force's focus on animal movement management and the campaign on disinfection of animal cages among farmers.

Provinces affected by FMD this year included Bulacan, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Benguet, Pampanga and Cagayan

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No special cell for Jimenez at NBI

IN CONTRAST to his erstwhile friend and patron, businessman Mark Jimenez will have to share a cell with five other detainees at the National Bureau of Investigation once the courts allow his extradition to the United States.

Jimenez, Manila congressman-elect, was a friend and adviser to former President Joseph Estrada who is himself detained for plunder and other raps, but in more than adequate surroundings in a hospital presidential suite.

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez did not say who Jimenez's jail mates will be, only that some of them, like himself, are wanted for fraud in other countries.

"Some of them are charged with murder and frustrated murder," she added.

Jimenez is wanted in the US for conspiracy to commit fraud, wire and mail fraud, falsification, tax evasion, making illegal campaign contributions and making false statements.

The Department of Justice has revived efforts to extradite Jimenez after it sensed that he was not likely to cooperate as a state witness against Estrada.

Jimenez had submitted an affidavit supposedly detailing what he knew about Estrada's illegal business activities, but it failed to satisfy government prosecutors who are looking for hard evidence against the ousted president.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez had also surmised that the Philippines' failure to extradite Jimenez has resulted in American authorities' non-action on a government request to have Estrada co-accused Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte arrested and deported from the US.

Ang and Ricaforte face plunder raps along with Estrada. They both fled to the US separately the day before Estrada was ousted from power on Jan. 20.

And in yet another move to delay the extradition process, Jimenez had asked the Manila Regional Trial Court to hold a hearing before an arrest warrant could be issued against him for his extradition. A Manila judge has set the hearing for June 5.

Gutierrez said Jimenez's lawyers and government prosecutors will present arguments centering only on his continued stay in the country.

"We will not discuss his guilt or innocence as far as the criminal cases in the US are concerned," the undersecretary said. *Cathy C. Yamsuan*

Task force drafting bill vs 'dirty money'

By Cathy Cañares-Yamsuan

AN INTER-agency task force is now drafting the provisions of an anti-money laundering bill which it intends to present to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for endorsement to the 12th Congress.

Justice Assistant Secretary Ricardo V. Paras III cited the urgency of a law against money laundering especially after the Jose Velarde scandal that rocked the banking industry at the height of former president Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

Paras said an anti-laundering bill enacted into law will fulfill the country's commitment to moves in the international community to establish a global effort against the illegal practice.

Paras said the Philippines is a member of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering and is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration Against Money Laundering.

In an interview at the Department of Justice, Paras said efforts to approve an anti-laundering bill was initiated in the Tenth Congress. However, legislators only managed to pass a RICO or anti-racketeering law.

He said the Jose Velarde scandal where Estrada allegedly used a fictitious name to launder "jueteng" collections revived the attention to the need for an anti-laundering law.

"Under the law, it is illegal to open fictitious bank accounts, banks should be required to monitor transactions which do not have any apparent lawful purpose. We also want to prohibit the issuance of checks payable to the bearer," Paras said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has issued circulars detailing illegal banking activities.

Papal envoy here to mark 50 years of Vatican-RP ties

POPE John Paul II has sent his apostolic blessings to the Filipino people on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the Philippines.

Archbishop Jean Tauran, Vatican Secretary for Relations with the States, arrived yesterday to represent the Pope in the golden jubilee, saying he was pleased to visit the Philippines, "the country that has the greatest number of Catholics." This is his first visit to the country.

The 59-year-old archbishop will officiate a 10 a.m. Mass tomorrow at the Manila Cathedral to celebrate the anniversary, which was also marked in Rome last March.

While he expressed elation at Philippine-Vatican relations, Tauran said he was saddened by the recent abduction of three Americans and 17 Filipinos from an upscale Palawan resort.

"I think it was a very unfortunate incident," he said when asked to comment on the kidnapping by the Abu Sayyaf group, which claims to be fighting for an independent Islamic state in Mindanao.

"The only thing a churchman can say is the dignity and safety of the human person is an absolute value to which everybody must be committed," Tauran said.

He expressed the hope that the abduction would not spark a religious war between Muslims and Christians in the Philippines. *TJ Burgonio*

Court okays resumption of trial vs Ramboys over Olalia murder

By Dona Pazzibugan

KAPUNAN

LEGASPI

OLALIA: Still no justice after 15 years.

THE COURT of Appeals has paved the way for the case against former Army Col. Eduardo "Red" Kapunan Jr. and other members of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan (RAM) to proceed in connection with the 1986 abduction and killing of labor leader Rolando Olalia and his driver.

In a resolution issued May 22, the CA's sixth division denied the petitions filed two years ago by Kapunan and one of his co-accused, Air Force Col. Oscar Legaspi, seeking a reconsideration of the CA decision allowing the trial to proceed.

The appellate court found that the motions for reconsideration were a "mere rehash of the issues and arguments that had been raised and discussed" in the CA's Dec. 29, 1999 ruling.

Thirteen RAM members led by Kapunan, Legaspi and Capt. Ricardo Dicon were charged before the Antipolo regional trial court in May 1998 with the kidnapping and murder of Olalia and his driver, Leonor Alay-ay.

The trial was suspended, however, even before Kapunan and the others could be arrested after the CA issued a temporary restraining order based on the petitions of Kapunan and Legaspi.

In suspending the trial, Antipolo RTC Branch 71 Judge Felix Caballes recalled the arrest warrants against the RAM members and ordered the release of Dicon, who had been arrested on Feb. 1, 1999.

The families and lawyers of Olalia and Alay-ay yesterday asked the Antipolo RTC to re-issue arrest warrants for the suspects.

"(With the CA's decision) the only logical conclusion is there is no more legal impediment (to the arrest of the accused), so they have to be arrested," said private counsel Marie Francesca Yuviengco.

The Public Interest Law Center, which represents the victims, said in a statement that RAM has repeatedly "tried to hamper the prosecution of its members and shield the masterminds" of the killings.

RAM members included in the complaint are Gilbert Galicia, Dennis Jabatan, Filomeno Maligaya, Jean Paris, Deciderio Perez, Freddie Sumagaysay and Edger Sumido.

Olalia, head of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno, was abducted together with Alay-ay on the night of Nov. 12, 1986, shortly after meeting with other labor leaders in Pasig.

Their bodies, bearing gunshot and stab wounds and showing signs of torture, were found the next day in Cogeo, Antipolo.

In the next two years, murder charges were filed against Legaspi, Gilberto Galicia, P/Sgt. Franco Espartero and P/Tsgt. Filomeno Maligaya.

But in a decision dated June 27, 1990, Antipolo RTC Judge Marietta Legaspi acquitted Espartero because the prosecution failed to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

Galicia turned state witness while Legaspi and Maligaya remained at large.

The families of the victims revived the case after two RAM members surfaced and turned state witness against their colleagues.

It was then that Kapunan and the others were included in the charge sheet.

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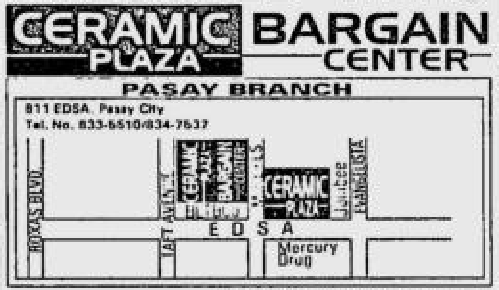

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No water for 2.9 million in Metro Manila

(From page A1)

in a phone interview.

He cautioned the public, though, to boil water for drinking, saying that while the water from the Maynilad reservoir is safe, transporting it in tankers used for fire fighting could result in some contamination.

"Our (Maynilad) tankers are safe but consumers should be extra careful and they should boil the water if it's for drinking," Matubis said.

For his part, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. placed the agency on round-the-clock "monitoring duty" for the length of the service disruption.

The MMDA will coordinate efforts with Maynilad and Manila Water in directing water delivery tankers to areas where they are most needed, Abalos said.

Wary of promises

Abalos said that although he welcomed the upgrading of the water lines for better water distribution, the two concessionaires would not be exempt during this period from continuing the delivery of their services.

He said it was the responsibility of the two companies to find ways to continue to provide their customers with water.

Many Metro Manilans, however, are wary of promises made by Maynilad and the local government. Experience has taught them that the water tankers are not always reliable.

"*Mahirap umasa sa* firetruck. *Makikipag-agawan pa ako doon*, (I can't rely on the firetrucks. I'll have to compete with everyone else to get water)," said Aling Sayong, a 76-year-old retired nurse and resident of Tondo in Manila.

Preparing

Perhaps the only people looking forward yesterday to the waterless weekend were vendors of pails, *carinderia* and fast-food outlet owners who anticipated brisk business from those who planned to avoid doing the dishes, and bottled water companies.

Like Jane (not her real name) and many others, Aling Sayong prepared early for the dry spell.

On Wednesday, she went to Divisoria to buy plastic water containers in addition to a large one she had at home. She bought four small containers for P60 each and a larger one for P130. Two days before the water supply was supposed to be cut off, Aling Sayong started filling the drums with water.

According to Aling Sayong, Divisoria was teeming with other people buying pails and containers. One storeowner told her that business was hopping.

So her small household does not have to use up the saved water this weekend, Aling Sayong has finished the laundering for the week. She also plans to buy cooked food so she doesn't have to wash pots and pans. Her family will also be using paper plates to avoid wasting dishwater.

Her neighbor, Eusebio Arguelles, who manages a small *sorbetes* (ice cream) factory, has already filled up a large steel water tank in his house, as well as several metal ice cream containers.

His son-in-law, Jose, filled up their washing machine with water.

Anything goes

Jane, a mother of two, purchased two big covered plastic pails, each with a 108-liter capacity, when she learned of the dry spell ahead.

She also scrounged around the whole house for empty containers—anything that could hold water. Old ice cream tubs, pitchers, pots and pans, and even the garbage cans were all cleaned.

The plastic drawer used for keeping her one-year-old baby's toys was quickly employed for a purpose for which it was not designed. "I realized it can hold about five liters of water since it's made of plastic so I emptied the contents and used the drawer to collect more water," Jane said.

"Three days without water will be torture for us. Imagine having two very active children who need frequent baths everyday. And the heat we will have to endure especially in the afternoon (will be awful)," she complained.

As early as Thursday night, Jane's kitchen sink was a virtual showcase of containers in all shapes and sizes, all filled with water.

"Even the drinking glasses were filled to the brim. The *tabo* in our bathroom, the pitcher that comes with the juice blender, everything," Jane said.

GOOD to the last drop for residents who are going without water for the next three days.
ERIK ARAZAS

She also purchased a water dispenser, resurrected her mother's vintage Coleman jug, and instructed a *yaya* to fill up the washing machine tub with water.

"I'm worried about us stinking because we can't take a bath," she said.

Preview

Jane had a preview of what the service interruption would be like Thursday and yesterday when the water supply in her subdivision of University Hills in Caloocan, was suddenly cut off without warning around 9 a.m. on both days

On Thursday morning, Jane called Maynilad's "1626" hotline three times before the problem was explained to her.

"The first time I called, a (woman) said they would try to see what the problem was about," Jane said.

She called the hotline again 30 minutes later. A person who identified herself as Jenny Gutierrez asked for Jane's address and telephone number and promised that Maynilad's "technical people" would call back with an explanation.

An hour later, the promised call had not come, and Jane called again. This time, a male voice said University Hills suffered from low water pressure due to its location.

"There are lower lying areas in Caloocan City and the residents there are probably collecting water at this minute," the man told Jane.

"If you wait some more, ma'am, maybe the water pressure will be restored later, probably in the afternoon," he added. The water supply was restored around 3 p.m. Thursday.

A resident of Caloocan City for nearly two decades, Jane knows what it is like not to have water for days.

She recalled that around this time last year, Maynilad had a problem with a main pipe supplying water to northeastern Metro Manila. Caloocan was one of the affected areas.

"We did not have water for five days. There was no warning that it was going to happen. We just woke up one morning with waterless taps. Good thing it was already raining at the time. We had to collect rainwater in basins and take baths in the rain," she said.

Wet towel

Rex Ramones of BF Resort Village in Las Piñas said he had three drums, six pails, some plastic soda bottles, pots and kettles and even empty coffee jars filled with water early yesterday morning for his family's cooking, bathing and laundry needs.

"I told my kids to refill every container that is used up while there's still running water," Ramones, a father of four, said in an interview.

For their drinking needs, he brought three gallons of mineral water from a water refilling station in their neighborhood.

Apart from stocking up on water, Ramones gave strict orders to his children, aged 16 to 24, to conserve water.

"I told them that if they're not going out, they should just wipe themselves with a wet towel every now and then. And if they take a bath, they should use water sparingly," he said.

"At this point in time, we really need to conserve water and make a little sacrifice," he added.

Edlyn Ortega, 27, of Tondo, said that her family's stock of water would be used solely for their drinking and bathing needs, saying that the family had decided to buy food from a nearby carinderia and use paper plates and plastic utensils until the water supply was restored. *With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Nelson F. Flores*

RATIONING AREAS

Maynilad said water tankers will bring water to the following places:

- **Intramuros:** P. Burgos, T.M. Kalaw and Roxas Boulevard
- **Ermita:** San Marcelino, UN Avenue, Taft Avenue, Pedro Gil, Roxas Boulevard
- **Paco:** Zamora, Canonigo, PSG, Paz, San Gregorio, Kahilum, Perdigon, Pedro Gil
- **Pandacan:** Pasig River, PNR Tracks, Estero de Pandacan, Quirino Avenue
- **Makati:** Palanan, San Isidro, Pio del Pilar, Bangkal and Magallanes Village
- **Pasay:** Five tankers will make water available
- **Parañaque:** Baclaran, Dongalo, La Huerta, San Dionisio, Tambo, San Isidro, Don Bosco, Merville, Moonwalk, San Martin de Porres, Marcelo Green, Sun Valley, Sto. Niño, San Antonio
- **Las Piñas:** Manuyo 1 & 2, Danile Fajardo, Pulang Lupa 1 & 2, Ilaya, Zapote, Las Piñas, Pamplona
- **Bacoor:** Zapote, Bacoor, Talaba IV and III and Aniban I
- **Roosevelt:** 1 tanker each for Pag-ibig sa Nayon and Damar; St. Peter and Manresa; Lourdes and Doña Josefa; Sta. Teresita and Don Manuel; San Jose and San Isidro Labrador; Tatalon and Doña Aurora; San Isidro and Doña Imelda; Santol and Sto. Nino; Paang Bundok and Salvacion; San Jose and San Isidro Labrador
- **Caloocan Sector:** San Jose, C-3 Road, Tagaytay Street; portions of West and East Grace Park, 4th Avenue, Nadurata C. Namie, Maria Clara; Maypajo, Estero de Maypajo, PNR, Railway, C-3 Road, Dagat-dagatan Creek; Portion of Sangandaan, Caloocan: C-3 Road, Dagat-dagatan Creek, Libis Espina, Doña Rita; Heroes del 96, Samson Road, Bisig ng Kabataan, UE Subdivision, Torres Bugallon, Malabon/Caloocan Boundary, University Avenue Dalagang Bukid, Lapu-Lapu and Talakitok

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The **Grand Alumni Homecoming** follows at the Dusit Grand Ballroom for all to attend. Registration starts at 4:00 P.M. Valuable raffle prizes including a number of "Showcase" prizes will be given away to lucky winners during the **Grand Raffle Draw**. There will be **Ballroom Dancing** and a **Musical Show Presentation**. Contact your classmates now, form your own class reunions, get your tickets and attend our Grand Alumni Homecoming. For more information, call telephones 812-6947, 819-7277 or 893-4801, send fax to 810-5374 or email to cdcastro@info.com.ph

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HELPS PROMOTE BLOOD CIRCULATION

Power bill railroaded, excluded solons cry

(From page A1)

Ma. Teresa Diokno-Pascual said. "This is railroading pure and simple."

Hogwash

Rosales described as "hogwash" the reconciled version approved by some members of the bicameral committee

Rosales said the so-called bicameral conference was a mere "meeting" among members of the committee because it had no quorum.

The party-list representative said the bicameral conference was highly irregular not only because no minutes were taken but also because the four-day special session had already ended midnight of May 31.

While Rosales and the FDC fume over the alleged railroading of the power bill, the President was happy with the prospects that it would be enacted into law

Healing

Ms Macapagal said that "healing is better than bitterness."

"She's very happy that the Senate has been very cooperative in pushing, working and approving this bill," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"We hope that this will be a very strong signal that despite the problems we are facing, the President and Congress are still focused on pushing through with economic reforms that will give a boost to our economy," Tiglao said.

He said the President was ready to sign the power reform bill into law as soon Congress transmits it to her.

The power reform bill is the first major legislation vigorously pushed by the four-month-old Macapagal administration.

The bill's passage was a condition imposed by foreign creditors for the release of fresh loans.

The President actively campaigned for the bill's ratification. In television messages, she said the high cost of electricity was one reason the Philippines remained poor.

She said the privatization of the debt-laden Napocor and other reforms in the power sector would bring about lower electricity rates, a claim highly doubted by civil society and militant groups opposing the power bill

131 House members

In the House, 131 representatives approved the bill that provided for a plan to privatize the $5-billion National Power Corp., which would shift the financial burden of developing the power sector from the government to the private sector

But the catch was that the burden of paying P200 billion of the Napocor's $6.7-billion debt would continue to be assumed by the government and the taxpayers

Many of the representatives had not adequately read the 48-page Senate version of the bill adopted by the House. Copies of the bill contained in the conference committee report were distributed only at around 10:30 p.m. Many were droopy-eyed by 2 a.m.

Fourteen congressmen opposed the bill when voting came at 4 a.m. They were Makati Rep. and Senator-elect Joker Arroyo, Makati Rep. Butz Aquino, Aurora Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, Lanao del Norte Rep. Alipio Badilles, Pangasinan Rep. Teodoro Cruz, Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Daisy Fuentes, "Tet" Garcia, Davao City Rep. Manuel Garcia, Valenzuela City Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Constantino Jaraula, Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat, Davao City Rep. Ruy Lopez, and Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Despite objections and calls for adjournment before midnight, the session was continued amid "questionable" circumstances.

Clock stopped before midnight

Violating Congress' own rules to ensure the passage of the measure, the House leadership on Thursday "stopped the clock" at 11:48 p.m., 12 minutes before the end of the special session.

The House then proceeded to ratify the bill at 4 a.m., the actual time.

At one point, the electronic clock conked out after an hour of being stopped, according to Arroyo.

By the time technicians "revived" the clock, it registered the time of past 1 p.m., eliciting guffaws from the congressmen.

"The technicians then had to readjust the clock," Arroyo said.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said stopping the clock was irregular

"They cannot stop the clock. They can only do that during regular session where there is an adjournment *sine die* (without fixing a day for future meeting), but not in a special session," he said.

Arroyo questioned in open session the stopping of the clock.

Unusual

Another unusual event was when La Union Rep. Manuel Ortega "moved to close the period of interpellation and debate" even before any interpellation or debate started. This happened at 11:48 p.m. when the session resumed and the clock was stopped.

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras seconded his motion.

Arroyo stood up and objected to this.

"What is this proposal? That we end the period of debate and interpellation on a measure where taxpayers are being asked to assume P200 billion? I should not have stood up here because I am a member of the PPC (People Power) Coalition," he said.

"I think I would be elected a senator and my loyalty is to the administration. But any procedure that smacks of railroading cannot be tolerated," he said.

Arroyo explained that the House adopted the Senate version of the bill with alacrity, throwing into the wastebasket four versions of the House, which had been studied by the House bicameral committee panel.

He noted that even the Senate had adjourned and deemed it fit to take up the Senate version starting Monday.

"Worst, Section 33 of this bill talks about a universal charge. What is a universal charge? That is a levy that will be charged and paid for by every consumer over and above the P200 billion that the taxpayers will assume. And we are just going to go ahead with this?" Arroyo said.

He noted that the PPC had the numbers to get the measure passed in the next regular session, and that the bill should not be approved without adequate deliberation.

Dilangalen disclosed that the House approved the measure after travel authorities for more than 100 congressmen were issued by outgoing House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte.

By issuing the travel authorities to the congressmen, the House could not muster a quorum for regular session starting June 4.

"It was a quid pro quo," Dilangalen said.

Objectionable provision

Among the objectionable provisions is Section 28, the so-called "Osmeña" insertion, which is about demonopolization and shareholding dispersal.

This would enable big distribution companies to eat up small distribution utilities of power because they would be required to enlist in the Philippine Stock Exchange, according to opponents of the bill.

Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate panel, said he was ready to answer the concerns of his colleagues as he insisted there was nothing improper about the two panels' signing of the reconciled version on Thursday. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

Recto loses extra votes but clings to 13th slot

(From page A1)

have cut Recto's lead to 682,395 from 693,273 on Thursday.

Rodriguez, counsel for PnM candidate Loi Ejercito, has asked the NBC to deduct 27,000 more votes allegedly padded in favor of Recto in four towns in Zamboanga del Norte and a town in Maguindanao.

Another 15,000 votes for Recto in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat, were voided after the NBC ruled that the town's COC be excluded because of massive padding of votes.

Rodriguez admitted that although the deductions, even if "quite big," would not be enough to cut Recto's lead, "The point is there was election fraud," he said.

"This will happen again in the 2004 elections if we do not push for the prosecution of those involved here," Rodriguez said.

Emerging from a closed door conference with the NBC, Rodriguez revealed that the NBC was set to issue a resolution deducting 9,000 votes padded in favor of Recto in the towns of Jose Dalman, Sibutad and La Libertad in Zamboanga del Norte.

This was confirmed by Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra, who said a resolution was being prepared to make the "corrections."

But Macalintal said it was he who asked for the deduction of the 9,000 votes from Recto in Zamboanga del Norte "because it was clear that someone sabotaged the records."

Macalintal said he was curious why PnM lawyers had known in advance that there was vote padding in certain towns even before the COCs were opened.

He expressed confidence that Recto would be proclaimed and that any election protest would have to be filed after the proclamation.

Rodriguez said he would file a petition to void 15,000 votes allegedly padded in Recto's favor in Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in Zamboanga del Norte.

"After these votes have been deducted, and with the arrival of the bailiwick votes from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, Recto will be out of the Magic 13," Rodriguez said.

Needs overwhelming lead

But he said Enrile should "win overwhelmingly" in the two provinces.

"Mathematically, Senator Enrile can still make it," Rodriguez said. "There are 800,000 untallied votes but he needs to have an overwhelming lead."

"An overwhelming lead is still possible because these provinces are our bailiwicks," he said.

The PnM and PPC were tied at 6-6-1 in Eastern Samar but four of those in the Top Six were from the PnM.

Enrile was able to cut Recto's lead with his 46,054 votes. Recto got 36,969 in Eastern Samar.

Enrile's gain, however, was neutralized by Recto in the special canvass of Baybay town in Leyte, which belatedly arrived yesterday.

Recto got 18,191 votes compared with Enrile's 5,983. It was 11-1-1 for the PPC in the town.

Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo yesterday said the NBC had ordered the transfer of the canvassing of the votes in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao to the Philippine International Convention Center to expedite the national canvass, which started on May 17.

The canvassing in the two provinces has been going on for a week due to delays caused by protests and the unstable peace and order situation.

The NBC resumes the canvassing on Monday with the expected arrival today of the canvass records from the two provinces.

CLUB FILIPINO
WE AR
papogi
WELGA KAMI
Kuwago
CLUB FILIPINO EMPLOYEES

EMPLOYEES of the historic Club Filipino in Greenhills walk out of their jobs to protest management's refusal to negotiate a new CBA. EDWIN BACASMAS

Club Filipino hit by strike

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

FOR the first time in 22 years, the historic Club Filipino is under strike.

Rank-and-file employees of the club, which has been associated most prominently to the first people power uprising in 1986, went on strike on May 26, alleging that the management refused to hold new collective bargaining talks.

Veteran employees of the exclusive, upscale club, now based in Greenhills, San Juan, recall only two previous ,strikes in its history, in 1978 and 1979, because of a CBA deadlock.

Ben Bautista, president of the 127-strong Club Filipino Employees Association, said they went on strike because their five-year CBA expired in May last year, without new negotiations being started.

He said the management refused to sit down with the union panel.

The INQUIRER tried to get the management's side last Monday but none of its officials reported for work.

Bautista yesterday said the management opened the club for business on Wednesday in the hope of weakening the strike.

"They wanted to show that it's business as usual. But there are no guests because none of the workers are reporting for work. So who will serve them?" Bautista said in Filipino.

According to the union, the management's negotiating panel was composed of personnel supervisors who were not officially designated by the Board of Directors and had no authority to conclude a CBA.

Bautista said the union has been meeting resistance from the club's executive officers: Roberto de Leon, president; Wilson Chu, vice-president; George Howard, legal officer; Sergio Lopez, treasurer; and Romulo Santos, board director.

The club reportedly has around 1,600 members who pay yearly dues of P12,000.

Apart from 127 regular employees, Club Filipino also employs some 230 contractual workers, mostly waiters, janitors and security guards.

President Corazon Aquino was sworn in at the Club Filipino in 1986 after the ouster of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

A mural of the historic event is displayed at the club's entrance.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit"Singson chose the club in October to make public his allegations that he helped ousted President Joseph Estrada amass millions in illegal gambling pay-offs and kickbacks.

Erap wants to attend Loi proclamation as senator

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

IMPRISONED ex-president Estrada wants to attend the proclamation of his wife, Luisa Ejercito, as a senator, Ejercito's lawyer said yesterday.

Ejercito, one of the candidates of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa, was in 11th place as of the latest tally yesterday with a lead of more than 100,000 over party mate Gregorio Honasan, who is in 12th place.

Also yesterday, Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo said the National Board of Canvassers cannot as yet decide whether to hold a partial proclamation or wait for the canvassing to be completed before proclaiming all 13 winning senators.

"The ideal is for all of them to be proclaimed at the same time," Benipayo said.

Invoking tradition, lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, who is representing Ejercito in the vote canvassing, said family members of an elected official attend the proclamation, and "certainly, Estrada would wish to be with his spouse during the oath-taking and he has the right to come as spouse of a newly elected senator."

Rodriguez, a former immigration commissioner, .said it would be up to Estrada's lawyers to make the appropriate request with the Sandiganbayan and the Philippine National Police.

Election Commissioner Rex Borra said the matter would have to be cleared with the Sandiganbayan.

"Generally, a person in detention should not be allowed to go out of his cell but we should recognize that Estrada is a plain citizen wanting to attend the proclamation of his wife as senator," Borra said.

He said detained San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada was welcome to attend, if allowed to do so by the Sandiganbayan.

The Comelec would have to be informed in advance regarding Estrada's attendance as special security arrangements have to be arranged at the PICC, Borra said.

Under Comelec rules, each winning senatorial candidate may invite up to five family members to the oath-taking.

It was learned that the Comelec has prepared a draft of the invitations to be sent out to the 13 winning senators.

A partial proclamation has been opposed by Rodriguez and reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago since some 800,000 votes from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao have yet to be canvassed.

Ani scoffs at Erap motion

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has scoffed at jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada's motion to have the criminal complaint against him for his alleged illegal use of an alias quashed by the court.

He said the two grounds used by the defense apply only to civil cases.

Estrada is accused of using the alias, "Jose Velarde," to conceal his true name as President of the Republic.

Desierto said the ousted president and Jose Velarde, who owns the P3.2-billion account at the Equitable-PCI Bank, "are one and the same person."

He said the prosecution was prepared to prove this fact in court.

The defense moved to quash, saying there was "equivocation and confusion" in the allegations.

It also filed a motion for reconsideration of the court's order to consolidate the charge of the illegal use of an alias with the plunder case pending in the 3rd division.

Desierto expects the 5th division to resolve the pending motions immediately to pave the way for the arraignment and the trial.

"The 5th division is known for its quick action on such motions," he said. *Michael Lim Ubac*

Sinos seek release of fishermen

THE CHINESE Embassy has asked the Philippine government to release 34 Chinese fishermen on board two vessels intercepted by the Philippine Navy on May 29.

In a note verbale, the Chinese authorities explained that the crewmen had "no intention of entering or conducting fishing activities in Philippine waters."

"Therefore, the Philippine side is respectfully requested to have the fishing boats released as soon as possible on the basis of humanitarian concerns and the friendly relations between our two neighboring countries."

Vice President and DFA Secretary Teofisto Guingo-ná yesterday said the Philippines may free the fishermen as "part of the country's confidence-building measures with China."*Rocky Nazareno*

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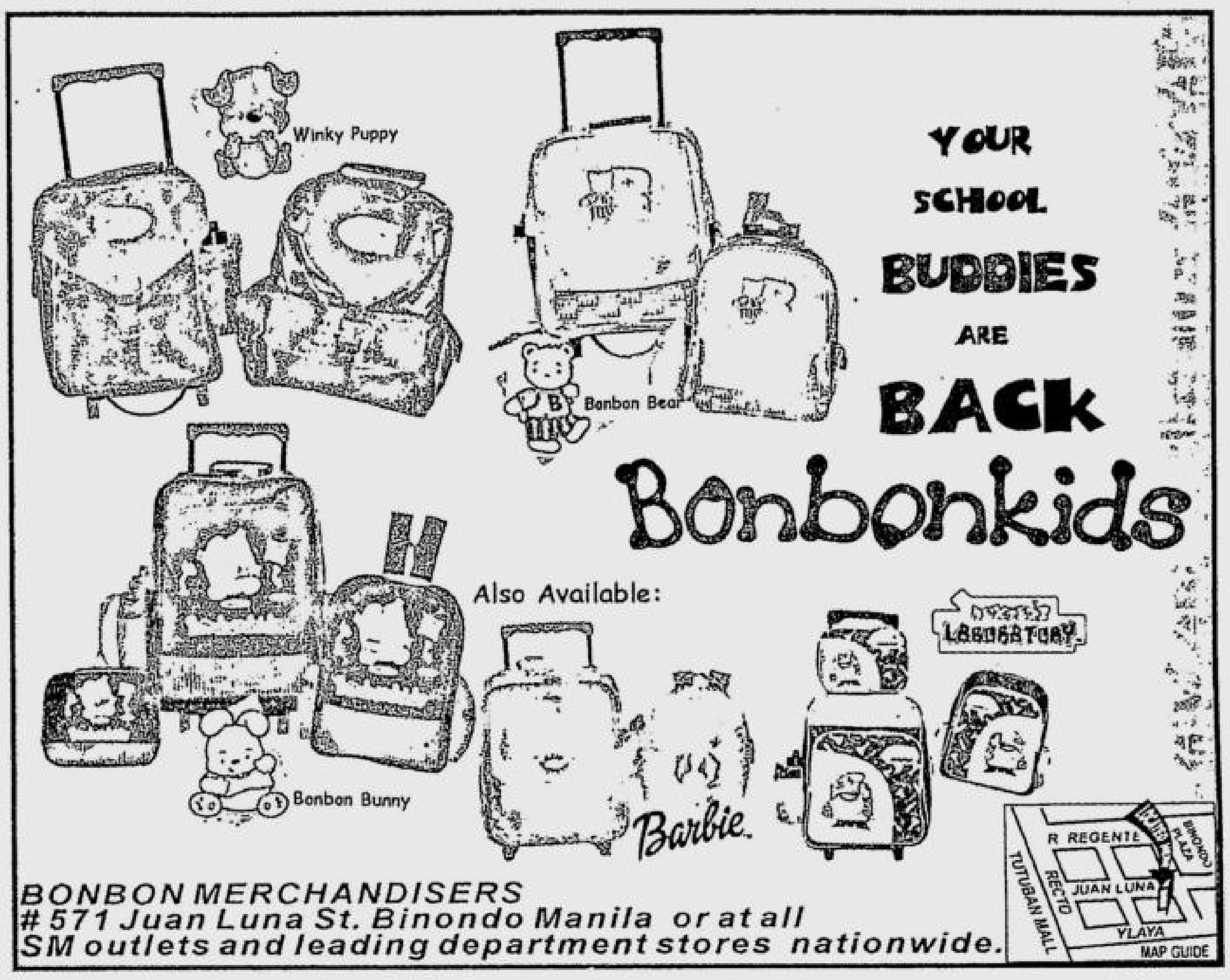

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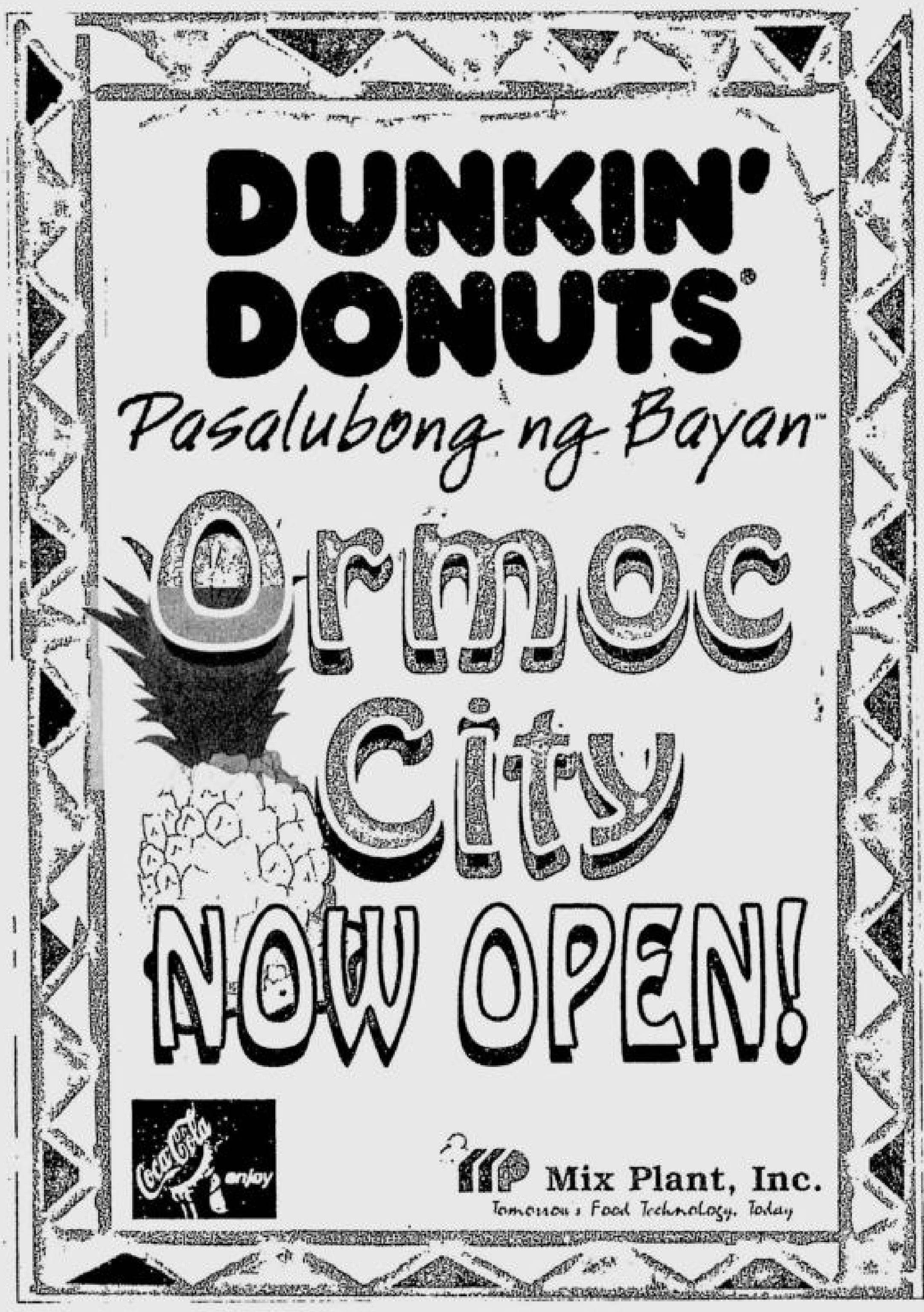

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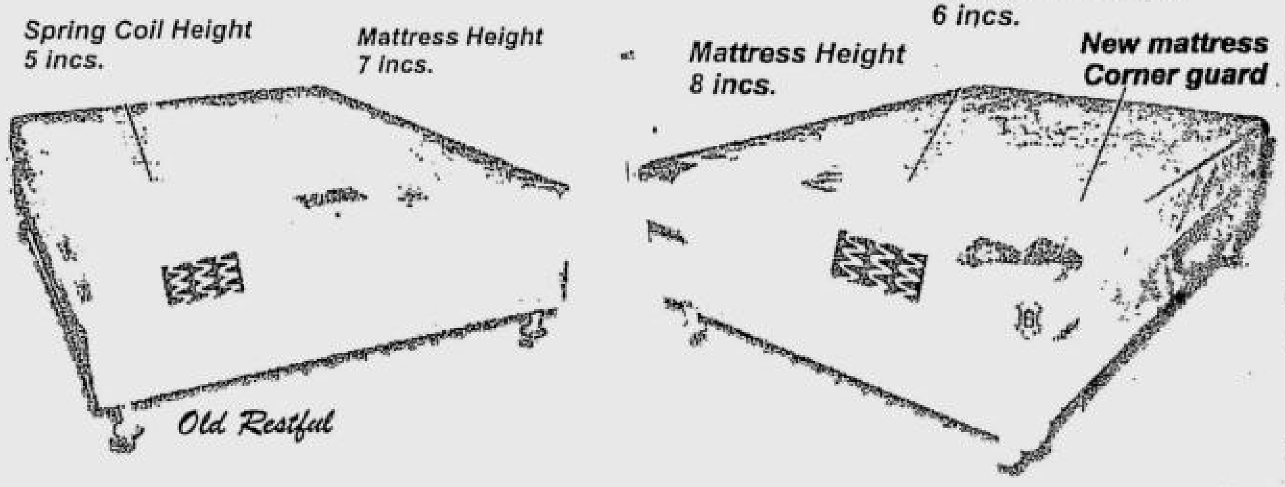
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Vol. 16 No. 174
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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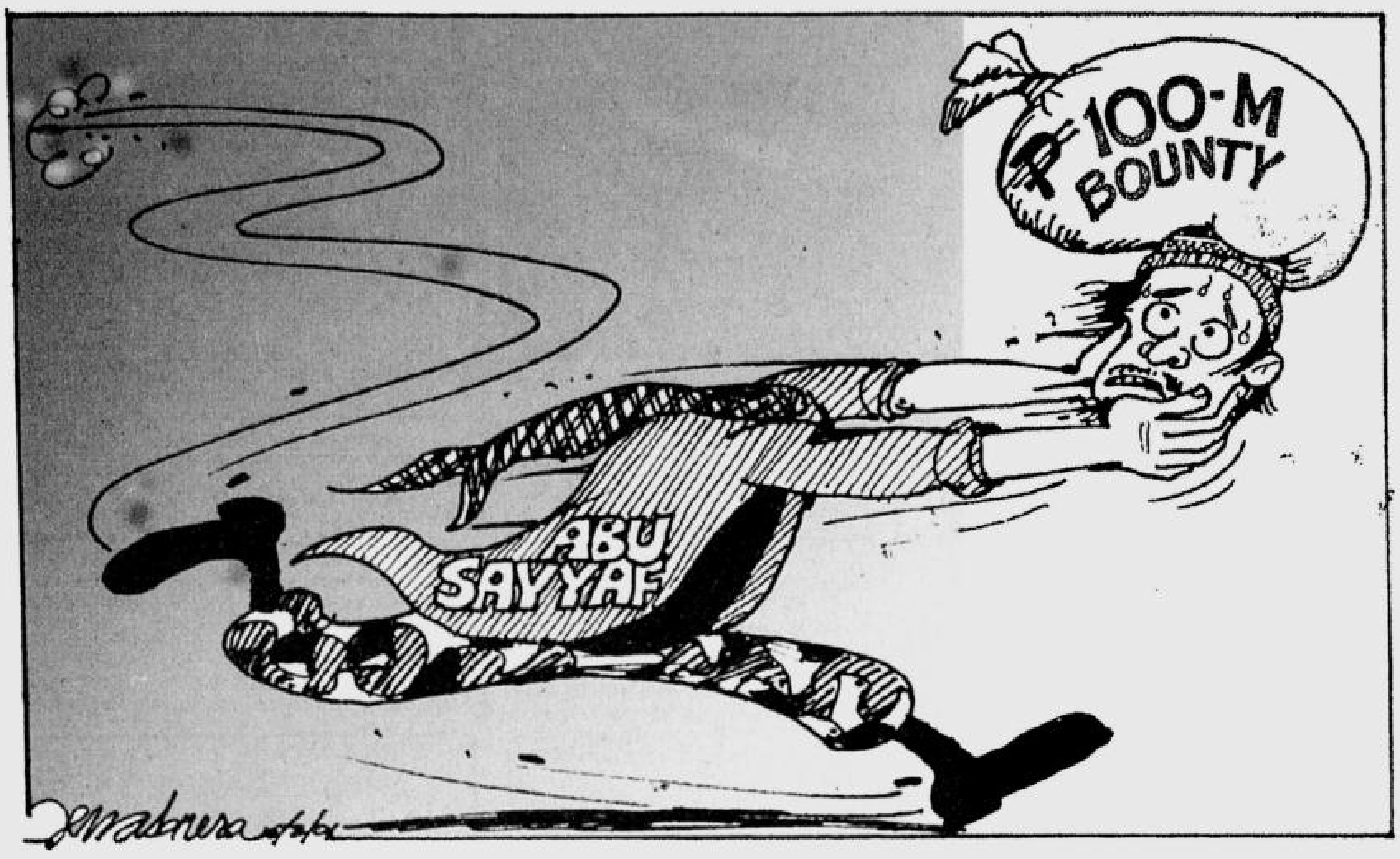

Unstable democracies

EDITORIAL

THE INDONESIAN parliament overwhelmingly voted this week to begin impeachment proceedings against President Abdurrahman Wahid. It agreed to convene the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Indonesia's highest legislative body, in August to decide whether to remove Wahid from office. It is the MPR that elects Indonesia's president.

Wahid is being impeached after running Indonesia and reducing it to shambles for only 19 months. The MPR session is a referendum on Wahid's leadership. Wahid is required to render a report on his administration, on the basis of which the assembly will decide whether to remove or retain him. Unlike the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada in the Senate last December, the Indonesian impeachment proceedings are not a long-winded process bound by judicial procedures.

Whatever the differences in the process, Wahid, like Estrada, is a democratically elected president, and faces removal from office before the end of his term. In both cases, impeachment action sprang from essentially similar causes: involvement in corruption scandals, erratic leadership and incompetence.

The Indonesian parliament voted for impeachment even though the solicitor general had cleared Wahid of two financial scandals. The first involved the siphoning of $4 million from the state food agency, and the other involved alleged misuse of a $2-million donation from the sultan of Brunei. The solicitor general found no evidence that Wahid personally benefited from the transactions. But this did not prevent Wahid's opponents from getting parliament to vote for initiating impeachment action. They are holding him responsible for the chaotic state of affairs in Indonesia.

Wahid has few options left to avoid removal from office. Indonesia is in turmoil. It is wracked by ethnic and separatist conflicts. Economic reform has stagnated. Its parliament is fractured by political in-fighting. Wahid is politically isolated. On the day parliament voted to begin impeachment proceedings, Wahid's backers tried to storm parliament. Wahid is a Muslim cleric with a large constituency in East Java where mobs have attacked churches and public places to protest moves to impeach him in Jakarta.

Unless a compromise formula is found within the next two months to break the political gridlock, the assembly is poised to dismiss Wahid and transfer power to his rival, Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri. That Estrada was replaced by a woman vice president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and that Wahid is likely to be replaced by Megawati, is pure coincidence. Political dynamics in the Philippines and Indonesia are different, although both crises mark trials of their democracies.

Megawati's party, the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, holds the most number of seats in parliament. Wahid's party has only 10 percent of the seats. Despite this, he won the presidency against Megawati by cobbling together a majority alliance with other parties. But this time, Wahid, who is partly blind, has lost the support of his parliamentary allies mainly after having a running battle with them and at one time calling them "a bunch of kindergartens."

Wahid who, like Estrada, has insisted that he is innocent of the charges and that attempts to remove him are unconstitutional, has tried to stave off impeachment by threatening to declare a state of emergency. Such a declaration would allow him to disband parliament and call for snap elections. He abandoned the plan after the Indonesian military leaders, his own security minister and some members of his Cabinet told him that they would not support it and that it would spark widespread violence.

The impasse has tempted the Indonesian military to take a front-line role as powerbrokers after the generals had taken the backseat following the resignation of President Suharto two years ago. Although the Indonesian army has a long record of political intervention, its pivotal role in withdrawing support from Wahid illustrates the point that when democratic institutions are fragile, military intervention is crucial to the life and death of governments, regardless of whether presidents are democratically elected.

Essentially, the Philippine people power crisis and the Indonesian crisis are about changing leaders either through an elaborate impeachment trial or a simpler referendum by the MPR. Both underline the instability of the older Philippine democracy and the younger Indonesian democracy. Their institutional foundations remain fragile.

Unfinished business

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

NOW that the elections are over, it's time to resume business as usual. There are many official processes that were interrupted by the campaign and should now be continued. The reprieve is over.

Among the suspended proceedings are the reinvestigation of the Kuratong Baleleng case and the inquiry into the masterminding of the Dacer case. Resolution of the Mark Jimenez extradition case is now overdue. The evasive fight of Erap confederates Atong Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte to the United States must be undone.

Some quarters may have hoped that their investigation before the elections would be swept under the rug and eventually forgotten. They might even have believed that their victory would immunize them from criminal action in deference to the popular will.

Election does not operate as a pardon for criminal offenses. Only the President of the Philippines possesses the pardoning power; the electorate does not share it. It is only the administrative offense—and never any crime regardless of degree—that is extinguished with the election of the official charged.

This means that Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson and possibly some of their other alleged co-conspirators may not go scot-free with their election. They may still be charged and, if convicted, imprisoned and disqualified from public office.

The parliamentary privilege from arrest will not be available to them because they are charged with offenses punishable with imprisonment for more than six years. In fact, they may be arrested even while Congress is in session without violation of the Constitution.

Honasan and Lacson, wanted for their alleged part in the failed raid on Malacañang, went into hiding and surfaced only when the administration assured them they would not be arrested before the elections. Now that the elections are over, that promise is no longer valid. They had better hide again if they don't want to be picked up.

Under Art. 135 of the Revised Penal Code, "any person who promotes, maintains or heads a rebellion or insurrection shall suffer the penalty of *reclusion perpetua*." The same penalty is imposed on "any person who leads or in any manner directs or commands others to undertake a coup d'état."

All persons have the right to bail under the Constitution except those charged with offenses punishable by *reclusion perpetua* when evidence of guilt is strong. If the prosecution is able to prove that exception, Honasan et al. may be detained without bail during their trial.

The Dacer case has been hanging fire since the victims' corpses were unearthed and some of the suspects confessed. The question of who masterminded the murders has yet to be answered. Investigation of this crime was put on hold in view of the possible involvement of Lacson himself, but there is no more reason not to continue it now. His election to the Senate is no barrier to the final resolution of this mystery.

Jimenez was able to delay his extradition when he questioned the refusal of the Department of Justice to inform him of the crimes for which his surrender is sought by the United States. Originally sustained by the Supreme Court, he lost in the motion for reconsideration and cannot therefore further interrupt the proceedings.

The fact that this fugitive from American law is now a congressman-elect will not inhibit our government from turning him over to the United States if this is warranted. His election to our Congress does not remove him from the operation of our extradition treaty with that country.

And while it's pursuing his case, the administration should also address its efforts to the return of Ang and Ricaforte, who are reported to be seeking political asylum in the United States. That's a specious ground for these non-political offenders. They are wanted in this country not for plotting against the state but as co-accused in the plunder cases against Estrada.

The United States cannot be hoodwinked into believing that these escapees are being persecuted for political reasons. It has been held that "to constitute an offense of a political character, there must be two or more parties in the state, each seeking to impose the government of their own choice on the other." Ang and Ricaforte are simply being charged as crooks.

The government probably thought the Abu Sayyaf problem had gone away with the rescue of the initial hostages last year, but it couldn't have been more mistaken. The bandits have reared their ugly heads again to thumb their noses at the military. It's also time to deal with this problem once and for all, with resolve rather than rhetoric.

And of course we should now stop treating the Estradas as if they deserved fragile handling like expensive china. Erap should be granted concessions only for security reasons and not because he is a former president. His son Jinggoy, as a small time mayor and an ordinary accused, should not share in his father's privileges.

Erap's latest move for a resthouse arrest is a new wrinkle. President Macapagal may again have "no objection" but who's to say she'll not again backtrack as usual? She should realize that the time for vacillation and temporizing is over, like the elections. It's time to be firm.

Church needs to reinvent itself

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

AFTER LAMENTING what Joseph Estrada's sympathizers had done to the Edsa Shrine and calling for prayers and reparation for what they deemed to be a desecration of a holy place, Catholic Church leaders have at least begun to do some introspection. It is comforting to hear Jaime Cardinal Sin finally acknowledge that the Church and the country's elite have sinned grievously against the poor. If the mammoth pro-Erap rally at Edsa and the violent march to Malacañang did something constructive, it was probably to make the Church realize how great was the distance that separated it from the poor and how guilty it was of reinforcing this social sin.

What the Church preaches, particularly in matters of public morality and politics, does not seem to resonate with the way many poor people view what is just, acceptable and "*makatao*." The electoral results, particularly in Metro Manila and in Christian Mindanao, show how little influence the Church has on the voting preferences of its flock. To many of the poor, Estrada was the oppressed one, robbed of the presidency and wrongfully made to suffer the indignity of being arrested, fingerprinted and jailed like a common criminal. While the Church and many of society's educated and well-endowed citizens saw in him a plunderer and an incompetent ruler, the poor mainly saw him as one of them, their champion who spoke their language, ate with his fingers, visited their filthy neighborhoods and irreverently challenged the rich and the pious with his macho rhetoric. It is possible that Erap made them feel a sense of respect and dignity by acting and talking like them, whereas Erap's adversaries looked down on their uncouth behavior and vulgar language. Perhaps the Church could begin the process of bridging the gap between it and the poor by first recognizing and feeling their pain and alienation.

Those among the poor who for so long have felt alienated and looked down upon by society's rich and righteous must begin to see a more accepting, humble and inclusive Church. They must also begin to trust this administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. More important than communicating whatever pro-poor programs the government has, it must convey an image of genuine concern, sincerity and commitment.

There are no tried and tested ways of accomplishing this and it certainly cannot happen overnight. The 100 or so Estrada supporters who were arrested and detained were reported to have changed allegiances after their release and now profess to be pro-Gloria. But one wonders whether such a change of heart really happens that swiftly. The administration reacted instinctively to the May 1 riots by distributing goodies to identified Erap bailiwicks in an effort to win the people over to its side. The President's make-over as "Ate Glo"—projecting a friendlier, more approachable image—might help bring her closer to the people, but it will not be enough to win their trust.

It does not help that Ate Glo is photographed playing golf with her Cabinet officials and former President Ramos at the height of the post-election chaos and with the unresolved issue of Estrada's house arrest petition still making his loyalists resentful of the government. It is not enough that the image is changed, some lifestyles have to change, too. The bags of goodies being distributed in various depressed communities should just be the beginning of the government's resolve to make its presence felt and to respond to their most pressing needs. They must see that an honest and competent government is possible, that it listens and makes room for them and that it brings food to their table.

This need for confidence-building is true of the Catholic Church as well. The image of a Church constantly preaching against public and private immorality must give way to a more compassionate image: that of a Church that understands the pains and struggles of poor people as they plod through the moral choices they have to make every day on hungry stomachs and tired spirits. The cardinal couldn't have been more correct when he said that Church people must live more simply. There are already many committed Church people who do but their number should increase. The people need to feel the presence of their priests and bishops in their neighborhoods and workplaces. Our religious leaders must be perceived as accessible and genuinely interested in the problems of ordinary people, especially the kind who no longer go to church.

Hopefully, this awakening of the Church, of our political leaders and the elite to how they have failed the poor would not be ephemeral. Unfortunately, the last elections have seemingly distracted us from our new realizations and have brought us back to the old and ugly realities of traditional politics—cheating and bickering—realities that only serve to sow more distrust and division. Indeed the elections have the potential of gravely polarizing the nation. The post-election situation has turned into one big circus: people power demonstrations in front of city and town halls all over the country, political operatives chasing one another in helicopters in Mindanao, Comelec officials blaming each other for the disorderliness of the elections, even Namfrel and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, with the best of intentions, have joined the fray by attacking the Comelec. After the May 1 riots, we learned that sobriety and reconciliation were virtues to live by. But after May 14, we went back to being impatient, angry and critical.

Given the tremendous excitement the last elections have caused, we should not allow ourselves to be distracted from our post-May 1 awakening. The process of reaching out to one another in a genuine spirit of compassion and solidarity must be concretized in actual actions, programs and lifestyles. For the Philippine Church especially, this is the best opportunity to reinvent itself in order to become a Church not just for the poor but of the poor.

Battle vs Abu Sayyaf unites country

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RUNNING battle between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf has engrossed the nation. Undoubtedly the assault on the Abu Sayyaf lair in Basilan will unite the country to the extent that politics will take a backseat. The citizens by and large are supportive of President Macapagal's tough stance toward the bandit group and her determination to rout it, although she has reportedly begun back-channel talks with the group. At this point the people are fed up with the wanton lawlessness of the Abu Sayyaf and its defiance of authority. The people want it wiped out. The President is right: we can all at this point leave the fate of the hostages to God.

Like millions of Filipinos, I watched the live press briefing by military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, and I must say that he was very competent (he spoke fluent, straight and grammatically correct English, which is not common among military officers). Adan, who has had a well-rounded experience in both staff and command positions, served as chief of staff of the Philippine Army prior to his designation as AFP public information officer and spokesperson.

* * *

The Archbishop of Manila, Jaime Cardinal Sin, celebrated last May 31 the 25th anniversary of his elevation to the College of Cardinals with a Mass at the Manila Cathedral attended by President Macapagal, her predecessors ex-Presidents Ramos and Aquino, other high government officials and prominent citizens. The 72-year-old cardinal, who is suffering from an impaired liver, has been embroiled in a lot of controversy during those 25 years, but he can find satisfaction in being an indelible part of this nation's history. In fact he remains a major player in our history, a pillar of strength to various presidents and a moral beacon to the citizens. We pray that he will be around in these critical times.

* * *

I was invited as a guest last night on the "Balintataw" program of Cecile Guidote-Àlvarez over dzRH which she used to pay tribute to Cardinal Sin. Guesting too was Lou Valencia-Arsenio of the advocacy section of Caritas Manila, the charity arm of the archdiocese and through her we learned about various charity programs being carried out under the leadership of the cardinal. These achievements, which are not confined to Manila's boundaries, are quite formidable. The wonder is that Caritas has been so low-key about them when, as Christ has said, one ought to put one's light on the lamp stand.

Arsenio cited, for instance, the continuing elementary-to-college scholarship program for the poorest in the archdiocese which counts nearly 8,000 scholars, about 900 of them in the last school year alone. Many of the scholars have become professionals, enabling them to free their families from the bondage of poverty.

Arsenio also mentioned various Caritas projects such as running homes for unwanted and battered children and women, involvement in the rehabilitation of the Pasig and the *balik-probinsiya* project.

This columnist is familiar with the humanitarian missions that Cardinal Sin has gotten involved in, such as the mission that fielded Filipino doctors and nurses to West Timor in September 1999 to attend to thousands of refugees from East Timor. The cardinal helped to raise the funds for that mission as well as the Tabang Mindanao project to assist the refugees of the Mindanao war last year. *Mabuhay kayo,* Cardinal Sin!

* * *

Earlier I wrote about the complaint filed by a candidate for Cebu's first congressional district, Napoleon Rama Jr., against his proclaimed rival, Jose "Dodong" Gullas, four days before the May 14 elections, but which the Comelec official in Cebu as well as Commissioner Rufino Javier ignored. Rama complained that 24 teachers from the Gullas-owned University of the Visayas (UV) served as poll clerks and members of the board of election inspectors in the district, although election laws provide that this function ought to be performed by public school teachers only. Rama ascribed the reversal of his 10,000 lead over Gullas, who's president of UV, to the questionable assignment of UV teachers to poll duties and to unexplained brownouts in Talisay. He also said that Cebu Comelec official Corazon Moran ignored his complaint because she herself was a former UV scholar. Rama's lawyer, Michelle Go, has filed a formal complaint before the Comelec on this issue. I opined that this was a breach of *delicadeza* which was difficult to understand, given the educational background of the Gullases.

* * *

House Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas, who recently won as the first mayor of Talisay City, wrote to say there's "absolutely no truth" to Rama's claim of fraud by his brother Dodong. Eddie admitted, however, that when he heard a report that three UV teachers in a satellite school of UV, located in the town of Minglanilla, were appointed as BEI members, he immediately asked these teachers to decline the appointment, and they did.

Regarding the brownouts, Gullas stressed that it was, in fact, his family that provided generators in the areas "because we feared that our leads might vanish." He stressed that in his 31 years of involvement in politics, his family's name has never been involved in electoral fraud or cheating. "I have guarded our name like I guard my own life," he said.

In a separate phone call to me, Gullas stressed that last May 14 was the sixth time he ran for public office, each time winning overwhelmingly, e.g., in 1980 he got a 325,000 vote over his rival and in 1998 he routed his opponent by 102,000 votes.

So, he didn't need to cheat. But what about his neophyte brother?

* * *

In the island of Panay, it was only Antique which gave a sweep to Lakas-PPC, with the victories of Gov. Exequiel Javier for congressman and Sally Zaldivar-Perez as governor together with its candidates for vice governor, five of the eight members of the provincial board, 13 of the 18 mayors and nine PPC senatorial candidates. Pundits attribute this to Javier's strong leadership. This was not the case in the other Panay provinces. The LPs swept Capiz while in Guimaras the LDP governor won. In Iloilo there was a mixture of Lakas, PPC and NPC winners.

In Antique, the victory of Ex Javier's hand-picked candidate for governor and his former political opponent Sally Perez saw history repeating itself. In 1980, Javier's brother, the late Edsa hero, former Gov. Evelio Javier, passed on the province's leadership to Sally's older brother, Enrique "Ike" Zaldivar (now our ambassador to Brunei) as Evelio ran for the Batasan Pambansa, but was cheated of victory. This time it's the younger siblings' turn to strike up a Javier-Zaldivar partnership. Incidentally, the late Supreme Court Justice Calixto O. Zaldivar also served as governor of Antique in the late 1950s, and he would have been happy to see his two children, Ike and Sally, follow in his footsteps.

One shot

Fitz Gerard Villafuerte

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I graduated from college, I couldn't wait to join the corporate world and finally start earning my own money. I guess this is a common sentiment among college students. Financial independence was my main goal in college, and it was what sustained me during those long hours of study.

But that was almost three years ago. Now after working in the corporate world for two years, I find myself rebelling against the despotic rules of the workplace. Of course, there are numerous advantages in having a lifestyle that requires one to wear long sleeves and neckties, but my walking shorts and T-shirt days in the University of the Philippines are just too hard to let go.

An office job is actually nice. There is something very satisfying about knowing that you are now a real adult. You see your pay slip with all the government deductions and company fees and you tell yourself, "I actually pay taxes now." You gain colleagues and bosses and learn that working in an office is conceptually not that much different from attending classes—except for the one big difference: vacations.

As you learn to file for fake sick leaves and start to shop for yuppie clothes, you also learn that like your parents, you cannot choose your superiors. Likewise, you are now grist for the gossip mill and, worse, a player in the virulent game of company politics.

Despite the monthly rice subsidy, 13th month pay, appraisals, allowances and travel opportunities, I still can't live with the 5 a.m. alarm, three-hour meetings, countless memos, overtime, the bureaucracy and the embarrassment of a bad-hair day in the office.

So not too long ago, I resigned from my job and ended my climb on the corporate ladder. I bade goodbye to my khaki pants and said hello again to my trusty cargo shorts. No more morning traffic and bundy clocks, welcome 10 a.m. baths and afternoon siestas. Life has never been so sweet—and hard.

Whoever said this lifestyle won't come at a heavy price? But it is a price I am willing to pay. Opportunities, like freelance and consultancy jobs, business and liaison ventures, lie before me. It is a risky life to lead, more stressful, more headache-inducing and more anxiety producing, but it is most rewarding and most self-fulfilling.

When I stopped my corporate climb, I started my entrepreneurial walk. It is a slow and tricky trip, one that often makes me wonder if I should go back to the world I left behind. Who knows? I might buckle in the end, but I know that I must at least try. As a friend once told me, "In life, only one shot is guaranteed, you won't make the goal if you don't take it."

Fitz Gerard Villafuerte, 24, is a freelance IT consultant and happily catching up with his reading.

Wahid's last remaining weapon

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bhimanto Suwastoyo

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid may resort to a state of emergency as a desperate last-ditch defense against his removal from office by a hostile parliament, analysts say.

"Unless he is willing to step down, the only avenue left for him is to go hard on his opponent, using the state of emergency," says political scientist Kusnanto Anggoro of the private think-tank Center for Strategic International Studies.

Anggoro said that a desperate Wahid could make good his threat of imposing a state of emergency that would allow him to disband the parliament with whom he has been at loggerheads for most of his term. "Anything is possible with Wahid; don't discount a state of emergency even though the requirements for its imposition are not met," he said. "That is his last club, the only one remaining and the one he has not yet used."

Wahid is known for his impulsive decisions, often taken against all odds, a trait that helped him survive three decades of authoritarianism under former President Suharto. But the trait has yielded only controversy and confusion in his rule.

The People's Representative Council (DPR) Wednesday voted to call for a special session of the national assembly, the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), to hold Wahid to account for his rule. A refusal to make an accounting would mean impeachment for Wahid and an end to the rule of the country's first democratically elected president.

M. Budiyatna, a political scientist of the state-run University of Indonesia, said the idea of imposing a state of emergency to fend off his impeachment has been in Wahid's mind for a while and will certainly remain so in the immediate time.

"The only thing that he has to assure (first) is that the military at least allows him to impose it," Budiyatna said.

But the military, consolidated after years of humiliation since the fall of Suharto, has broken with the past and stood up against Wahid's plans to impose the emergency and dissolve the parliament by decree. The president's team of ministerial advisors led by his top security minister, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, a retired general, has also been firm in their rejection of the emergency.

"Everything else, including warranting conditions, can be engineered," Budiyatna said.

He said that although people appeared now to be allergic to the idea of a state of emergency, "you have to remember that many are also thoroughly sick of the continuing political bickering at the top."

But Anggoro said the legal and political conditions for imposing an emergency would not allow Wahid to claim his move was constitutional.

The heads of the DPR and MPR have already said that if Wahid made the move, they would seek to convene the MPR special session immediately, far earlier than the two-month minimum period stipulated by an MPR regulation.

Anggoro said that Wahid had enough time to negotiate with the parliament before the MPR special session is convened in two months' time. "A compromise may still be reached," he said.

Besides the compromise, [Wahid still has the opportunity to defend himself at the MPR session and despite slim chances, convince the assembly that he should not be removed], he said.

But Budiyatna was pessimistic, saying that "individual and party interests were too strong and were against him retaining his seat."

He said that Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who stands to succeed Wahid should he step down, is being pushed by her party, the Indonesian Democracy Party for Struggle (PDIP), to claim the presidency which the party lost despite winning the 1999 general elections.

Golkar, the party of former dictator Suharto, was also pushing for Wahid's removal "to clean up its public image," he said.

Indonesia has no experience of impeachment.

Budiyatna cautioned that the constitution only says the vice president replaces the president if the latter resigns or is incapacitated. "It says nothing if the president is deposed."

"Megawati should also remember that her presidency would also face the same concerted forces of interests that have plagued Wahid so far," Budiyatna added.

AFP

The child in me

Ana Mae H. Quintal

LIFE was so simple when I was a child. No complications. No fuss. No worries. No responsibilities. I looked at the world through rose-colored glasses and every day I looked forward to doing things with so much verve.

Things were so uncomplicated back then. I did not have to stop for a moment to think whether what I was doing was the right thing. I did not have to worry about what others would say about my hair, my face, or whether people would laugh at my opinions. I did not have to think of what I was going to say before I actually opened my mouth. I did not mull over my decisions 100 times. I did not lose sleep when my plans were thwarted. I did not worry about grades, school, guys, clothes; I was contented with wearing a pair of shorts and *sando*.

All I had to worry about was keeping my teeth clean so I wouldn't lose my two front teeth and washing myself clean before going to bed so I wouldn't be devoured by mosquitoes and bed bugs. My daily routine was eat, watch "Batibot," play, sleep. My little world revolved around my parents and playmates.

My childhood was a time of learning and discovery. It was the time when I learned how to bike, catch a dragonfly by its tail, climb guava trees and *aratilis*, barter pencils and erasers for Rainbow Brite and Care Bear stickers, and defend myself by punching a rude classmate who kept calling me "*payatot*." I learned the value of punctuality when I came late to class (because of playing *patintero*, I lost track of time) and I was made to stand in a corner for an hour as punishment. I learned to be flexible by playing Dr. Quack-Quack, and developed some agility since I needed to jump from our high school stage to get ahead of the others and run as fast as I could after dismissal.

I realized the importance of friendship when my first best friend hugged me after I told her I won the Spelling Bee contest and made me laugh whenever I was on the verge of tears over some disappointments.

I learned to be responsible when I was told to watch over my little sister, and because I didn't, she fell from the crib (for which I got a good bad spanking). I learned to listen to elders when I ended up with blistered fingers after I ignored their warnings against playing with the candles.

Ah! Life was absolutely uncomplicated back then. I didn't think about the consequences of failing a subject. I didn't have to be scared if at 20, I would remain unattached and never had a boyfriend. I didn't have to be anxious if my life suddenly took a slump. I did not have to worry about my soul's fate: blissful paradise or a raging inferno. I didn't have to torture myself trying to decide whether to become a doctor or a writer.

Now at 20, I am no longer a child. I had my own share of rejection, disappointment, loss and anguish. I have tried to carve own path, and a lot of times I have stumbled, and more than once, went in the wrong way. On my way to self-discovery, I frequently found myself stuck in many of life's potholes. I have met different kinds of people, who, in their own way, have changed me. I have seen many things, experienced the whole range of human emotions, and because of that, I am no longer the child whose cries could be pacified with a trip to the carnival, or whose pain can be relieved by kisses or hugs. I am no longer the child whose laughter rings with pure mirth. I no longer see the world in brightly colored spectacles. I have revised my opinion that all men are good. My views are tinged with cynicism. I no longer believe that equality exists and justice prevails.

But there is still the child in me, the child whose hopes cannot be dashed by petty difficulties. My innocence is gone, and my enthusiasm may have ebbed, but I believe that there is still hope even when things appear hopeless. I am still a child within, a child who yearns for a hero to triumph over life's injustices; a child who longs for a hand to guide her through the dark and to pick her up when she stumbles or falls; a child who aches for a tight embrace to drive away feelings of loneliness and soothing words to wash away pain; a child who gets disappointed by failure but still pursues her goal with enthusiasm. More than anything, I am still a child who values simple, little things like love, hope, family, friends—and chocolates.

Ana Mae H. Quintal, 20, is fresh graduate of medical technology from the University of Santo Tomas.

Patterns of behavior

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SPANISH settlers in the Philippines, by transplanting their way of life and their social organization on Filipino territory, ensured that the colony resembled other places in the New World. To a large extent, an occidental city in an oriental environment existed only in Manila, a city full of exotic elements, and as a consequence of its commerce a crossroads of the diverse cultures of the Far East.

In Manila three important communities lived side by side: the Spaniards, the Chinese and the Filipinos, each of them conserving their social organizations. Even if there were influences from one to the other, the three communities developed in parallel but separate lines.

The Spaniards adapted to the new environment by recreating in Manila the way of life they had left behind in the Peninsula. While the political organization consisted of high functionaries sent by the crown to run the government, as a rule they stayed only for as long as their tenure mandated and formed no roots. But there was another group that in reality dominated the political, economic and social life of the city. These were the descendants of the Spaniards who had been arriving since 1571 and had opted to settle in the country.

The means utilized to climb the social scale and achieve economic wealth did not vary greatly from the rest of the New World. Urban society was formed by soldiers in the military service or by those who chose to conquer and settle in new territory. Members of the oligarchy in the 17th century had certain things in common: being descendants of the first settlers, victors of military campaigns or owners of an encomienda. This powerful group enjoyed an indubitable social prestige that gave its members access to employment in the municipal and national government and the military, adding to their influence.

By the onset of the 17th century, this group was already formed. They tended to adopt standards of behavior similar to that of the nobility. This aristocratic manner manifested itself in their way of life, in their relations and social bonds and in the ostentatious manner by which they displayed their wealth. Names like Esguerra, Sarmiento and Arceo were among the more prominent during the era.

Much sought after positions were those of chief magistrate and mayors in major towns because these were a means of rapid improvement in one's economic and social position. (If the idea of improving one's finances and position by becoming a government official sounds familiar, don't blame me. I'm only quoting.) Cases of people enriching themselves as mayors of towns were abundant. Little control was exercised by the central government and the long tenure in these positions (which just goes to prove as has been apparent for decades that political dynasties suck) permitted repeated abuses committed with impunity. Sebastian Rayo Doria, for example, was mayor of Tondo for 15 years and after his death his property was inventoried. It was discovered that he had stolen a good part of the taxes. He possessed a great number of slaves and pieces real estate property. His important economic position no doubt allowed him to contract marriage with a member of the Esguerra family, one of the most prestigious families in Manila at the time.

This powerful group dedicated itself to running the government or the military but above all to commerce, being the principal beneficiaries of the Galleon Trade.

The rest of the Spanish society was formed by the military whose salaries were generally insufficient. If they did not succeed in commercial ventures or acquire a small encomienda, they ended up as beggars, gamblers or criminals. A reliable observer of life in Manila at the turn of the 17th century, Hernando de los Rios Coronel, pointed out with alarm the degrading situation of soldiers in the military camps of Manila who gambled their salaries and ended up as shoeless mendicants. These men generally were idle unless there was a Muslim or Dutch attack but otherwise constituted a source of disturbance for the authorities.

The social differences were manifested also in the design of the city especially at the start of the 17th century. The best houses belonged to the wealthy residents and were found in the streets nearest the public plaza. On the banks of the river were beautiful orchards and vacation homes for residents of a certain social position. Possession of these pieces of property was a symbol of prestige and wealth.

Other more modest settlers possessed dwellings of wood or bricks or leased rooms in houses of stone that were offered for rent in Manila. The general and generous use of Chinese silks, with their brilliant hues and the rapid enrichment of merchants offered to the superficial traveler an aura of prosperity.

By the 17th century the encomienda had lost its use as a principal source of wealth to the Galleon Trade. It became instead a symbol of prestige and aristocracy if one could trace one's lineage to the original owner. Fortune seekers who arrived endeavored to enter "high society" by contracting a good marriage with daughters of these old families.

(Data from "The Unknown Age: the 17th Century" by Inmaculada Alva Rodriguez.)

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Unity needed to develop new Muslim politics

THE RECENT squabble among leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front again exposes the long and bitter crisis affecting the MNLF. The rift was revealed in the light of the forthcoming peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Nur Misuari postured by declaring a "Bangsamoro Republik" only to retract the declaration later after he realized that the Armed Forces would not fall for such an old antic. Still, Misuari announced that he would bring the Bangsamoro case to the United Nations, the same declaration he made before the Organization of Islamic Conference in 1977, which it simply ignored it.

These pronouncements are Misuari's attempts to counter the so-called 15-man MNLF Council headed by Dr. Farouk Hussin, a former MNLF foreign minister and high government official in the Macapagal administration who was responsible for booting him out as chair of the MNLF. If reports are true that Misuari is beefing up his Mutallah Force to balance the MNLF forces that defected to the group of Hussin, then Misuari must be planning to put up a fight against the MNLF Council. It also shows the tenacity of the man, who does not seem to run out of political cards to play after more than 30 years as MNLF chair.

A veteran in political maneuvering, Misuari can easily outflank Farouk since the latter is working in the government. What Misuari can do is recruit independence-hungry Moros and revive the Moro cause of self-determination while branding his rivals as collaborators. Although Misuari has been known to issue hollow threats, his ability to play with people's emotions still enables him to project himself as the leader of the Moro struggle. Besides, the ambivalence of Farouk's group shows that it is unprepared to completely get rid of Misuari.

With or without Misuari, what the 15-man MNLF Council needs is a leadership that represents the collective interest of the Moro people. It must be a leadership with vision, skill and great statesmanship. It must be ready to extend a hand of unity to other Moro groups, especially the MILF.

Forging unity is expected to be the major advice of the OIC when the latter gets involved in the GRP-MILF peace talks. And it is certain that the OIC will get involved because unless it comes in, nothing will happen to the peace process. Besides, the elevation of the Moro case to the UN needs lobbying by major powers like the OIC member countries. The Philippine government also needs a third party it respects during the talks.

Unless the MNLF and the MILF are united, any party can claim to represent the Bangsamoro cause.

The 15-man MNLF Council and the MILF should be willing to set aside their personal and ethnic interests for the sake of the collective interests of the Moro people. Only then can a new Muslim politics in the Philippines finally move forward.—**JULKIPLI M. WADI, Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

SLU's hard-earned credentials

THE YOUNGBLOOD article published last May 24 came across to us as insensitive, to say the least. I am referring to the letter of Herdy L. Yumul urging his brother to send his daughter Sachi to UP Diliman and not to Saint Louis University, Baguio.

We don't mind Yumul's sending his otherwise very private and personal communication to his brother via the column (he is free to do what he wants), but we do mind that his personal correspondence made an unflattering judgment on our school. We don't mind if he belittles the capacity of SLU and its students and alumni in his private correspondence, but we do mind that these unfair and harsh remarks are made in public and published by a highly regarded daily.

Yumul's logic says that the University of the Philippines is the premier school in the land (he also mentions in passing La Salle, Ateneo and San Beda as reputable schools) and therefore, Sachi, who is the class valedictorian in the only science high school in Ilocos Norte, should go there for otherwise she wouldn't "continue to be the best, the brightest and the most promising person that she is by nature." For emphasis, he adds that if his niece were mediocre, he wouldn't mind if she went to a "lesser school" (read: SLU and, you might as well include, other institutions that are not on Yumul's list of reputable schools in Manila).

I am afraid that Yumul's condescending attitude toward other schools is the kind that leads to something like Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's now infamous remark that people who have not studied at UP constitute "lower life forms." (The writer uses the quotation in his letter but apparently misses the point.)

Firstly, Yumul could have sung hallelujahs to UP (I wonder why he didn't say the same for San Beda, his alma mater), but he didn't have to do so at the expense of other schools. We take issue with the fact that he specifically mentioned SLU. He could have left our school unnamed and his hallelujahs to UP would still have rang out loud and clear.

Secondly, we take offense when, in a more unpleasant tone, he states: "Sachi will not always be able to tell her patients that she enjoyed a scholarship in SLU or that she was awarded 12 medals when she graduated there."

SLU is definitely not UP, but we don't know of any Louisian who does not feel proud of his diploma, scholarship or medal. And for a reason: SLU is No. 3 (after UP and Ateneo de Davao) among the universities with the highest passing rates in 10 or more licensure examinations from 1994-1998, according to the March 2000 report of the Professional Regulation Commission and the Commission on Higher Education. Moreover, the same report put SLU among the top five medical schools nationwide whose examinees number 100 to 999, with consistently high passing rates in the medical board exam.

According to the CHED, SLU is among the few Philippine universities which pass the International Standards in Tertiary Education. It is a Center of Excellence for Nursing and Teacher Education and a Center of Development for Business and Management Education as well as for Engineering and Architecture.

All these are hard-earned credentials which SLU has assiduously gained through the years, and we cannot just allow them to be simply brushed aside by one uninformed writer.

As for Sachi, it's our wish—just like her uncle's—that wherever she goes for college, she will "continue to be the best, the brightest and the most promising person that she is by nature."—**GASTON P. KIBITEN, director, Public Information and Community Relations Office, Saint Louis University, Baguio City**

A convict for a congressman

I WISH to express how disturbing it was for me, and perhaps many others too, to read a recent headline story. A society that allows a convicted child rapist to run for an elective office and subsequently be proclaimed winner to represent the interests of thousands of people in his district in Congress, is a very sick society. We probably are the only democratic nation in the world that allows convicts serving life terms to seek elective office.

There appears to be more to this story, if I read it correctly. This man, Romeo Jalosjos, is allowed by prison officials to hold court "during office hours" while in prison, issuing instructions to a secretary and receiving hundreds of visitors every day, including friends, relatives, lawyers, political leaders, etc. We feel insulted and we get enraged whenever we Filipinos get criticized or are made fun of by talk show hosts in the United States and elsewhere. Is it me, or am I missing something here?—**BUNNY ARVILLE, New York City**

Monuments to honor living heroes

THE FILIPINO people owe a lot of gratitude to those gallant teachers who bravely manned the polling precincts last May 14 and in the process suffered a lot of inconveniences (hunger, sleepless nights, harassment by political leaders, delayed payments and, according to TV reports, "*nag-abono pa sila sa* transportation, etc.).

I urge the incoming 12th Congress to pass a law that will appropriate funds for the erection of monuments to teachers in all town and city plazas all over the archipelago.

This is the least we can do to honor these unsung heroes of our time. Please note however that this suggestion was not prompted by the teachers' big performance during the recently concluded elections, but rather to immortalize the teachers' lifelong contribution toward the molding of the hearts and minds of the young so they will become responsible citizens.

By tradition, monuments are built to honor dead heroes, but this time, let us make an exception in order to salute the living heroes of our time: the teachers.—**PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City**

Professional coverage of the polls

CONGRATULATIONS to the Inquirer for the way it covered the mid-term elections.

The elections might have had some flaws but your coverage of it was very professional. The information you provided were very substantial and the analyses were very thorough. Thanks to the Inquirer, a lot of your readers, including myself, understood better what the elections were all about.

With regard to the need of computerizing the elections, protecting the sanctity of the ballot, ensuring upright and intelligent candidates to run for office, improving the quality of life of our voters—we seem to have a long way to go. But the fact that we have free elections and a free press should somehow ensure that we will get the candidates we deserve for better or for worse.—**BRENDA POLICARPIO, brendap@edsamail.com.ph**

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Freeze on tuition hikes

THE INQUIRER'S editors remembered it correctly. (PDI, Editorial, 5/28/01) We raised the issue of tuition increases during the Inquirer-GMA 7 senatorial debate days before the election to challenge their political will on issues that urgently concern the youth. This is because this June, only 1.4 million young people can afford to go to college because of the rising costs of education.

It is troubling for young people like us to witness the extra efforts our parents have to make to raise thousands of pesos so we can enroll this semester. Raising P20,000 or P30,000 seems impossible for families of workers earning less than P250 a day as the daily cost of living has shot up to P500 a day. With price increases of oil, water, electricity and basic commodities, our families cannot afford to pay scandalous tuition and other fees in colleges and universities.

School owners have arrogantly imposed tuition increases, saying they have to increase the salaries of teachers and employees and improve facilities. We cry foul for in many cases, our teachers and employees are never properly compensated. A study done in the University of Sto. Tomas from 1995 to 1998 showed that only 67 percent of the increase in tuition went to salaries of personnel in violation of the law mandating that 70 percent of such increases should go to the teachers and employees. Visit the University of the East in Recto and Caloocan and you will find rusting and obsolete facilities and crowded classrooms.

State colleges and universities offer no comfortable options for us. Even the University of the Philippines charges P300 per unit, and 20 state universities and colleges are set to increase tuition. What choice do we have?

It has become imperative for the President to issue an executive order freezing tuition and other fees. The administration should also review and eventually scrap the Education Act of 1982 that lifted restrictions on tuition increases. The law has burdened us with a 2,000-percent rise in costs of education ever since it was signed by Ferdinand Marcos.

It's the least we expect from the government after marching to Edsa, Mendiola and other streets nationwide last February to demand relief from this yearly problem.—**CRISTINA PALABAY, national president, National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP), c/o Office of the Student Regent, Vinzons Hall Basement, UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Three full terms sole basis for disqualification

I WOULD like to respond to some of the items contained in Neal H. Cruz's column last May 18, 2001 titled, "Mayoral winner in Tagaytay polls disqualified?"

To set the record straight, the ruling of the First Division (with one commissioner dissenting) is not a final ruling. I am allowed by law to file a motion for reconsideration with the Comelec en banc. Rule 19, Sec. 2 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure provides: "A motion to reconsider a decision, resolution, order or ruling of a Division shall be filed within five (5) days from the promulgation thereof. Said motion, x x x suspends the execution or implementation of the decision, resolution, order or ruling."

Please be informed that on the same day that the ruling of the Comelec First Division came out, my legal counsel, Haydee Yorac, filed a motion for reconsideration which effectively suspends the implementation of the said ruling.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court in Singco vs. Comelec 101 SCRA 420 said:

"The mere pendency of a disqualification case against a candidate does not justify the suspension of his proclamation after winning in the election. To hold otherwise would encourage the filing of an even entirely baseless petition for disqualification just to effect the suspension of the proclamation of the winning candidate, not only to his damage and prejudice but also to the frustration of the sovereign will of the electorate, and for the undue benefit of undeserving third party or parties."

Cruz cited in his column the Lonzanida vs Comelec case. Let me restate the doctrine enunciated in the case. For the disqualification to apply, Lonzanida provides that two conditions must be present:

"1. That the official concerned has been elected for three consecutive terms in the same local government post.

"2. That he has fully served three consecutive terms."

Cruz is correct when he wrote that I was not able to fully serve three terms or nine consecutive years. Based on the Lonzanida doctrine, Lonzanida was allowed a fourth term because he was ousted from office and therefore was not able to fully serve his term. Why can't I be allowed to fully serve my term simply because I was the one who was cheated in 1992? Are we going to give more equity and premium to election cheaters?

The people of Tagaytay knew fully well the issues (including the disqualification case) when they voted last May 14, 2001. Yet, they gave me their sovereign mandate and trust, resulting in a landslide victory for me and my entire slate. We should respect the freedom of choice of the people. My opponent was rejected and is the loser.—**FRANCIS N. TOLENTINO, mayor, Tagaytay City**

Added burden to power consumers

THE OMNIBUS Power Bill will in effect leave behind a gigantic debt generated by questionable contracts that independent power producers got under the past administration. This will become an additional financial burden to the consumers through the power purchase adjustment (PPA).

The question we must ask is whether or not such a burden is "morally justified." In this regard, it becomes imperative that these contracts be reevaluated to ascertain their real value. Otherwise, should the issue remain unchallenged, then the PPA payment should provide an added value to the consumers in terms of being allowed as a tax deduction calculated on a percentage basis. This will soften the negative impact of the PPA.—**ENTENG T. FRANCISCO, NATHALIE L. MONTEMAYOR, ANDREW L. MUNGCAL, Political Science Department, Ateneo de Manila University**

The WORLD

Wahid vows to fight impeachment

JAKARTA—Beleaguered Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid on Friday refused to resign and threatened to block parliamentary moves to impeach him.

"I will not resign. If the existence of this country is threatened I won't hesitate to take firm actions," Wahid told a gathering of independence veterans at the state palace.

"It's not that I don't want to resign. I can't," he said, a day after the national assembly set Aug. 1 for a special session to demand Wahid account for his erratic time in office.

Wahid said his sprawling nation risked disintegrating if he resigned, with six provinces including the restive regions of Aceh and Irian Jaya likely to declare independence.

A presidential spokesperson said Wahid planned to address the nation on television and hold a press conference later Friday.

But MPs and analysts warned that if Wahid translated "firm actions" into his oft-repeated threat to declare a state of emergency and dissolve parliament, the move would backfire.

"If he issues a decree, I am very, very sure that the moment he issues that decree he will be put under house detention by the police," said Alvin Lie, deputy parliamentary leader of the anti-Wahid Reform faction.

The military would refuse to back any emergency declaration, Lie said.

International Crisis Group analyst Harold Crouch agreed the move could prove politically fatal for the Muslim cleric, who in October 1999 became Indonesia's first freely elected president.

"I would never rule it out but he would be crazy to do it; he'd be cutting his own throat . . . it's pointless without the military's support," Crouch said.

But Wahid said he was elected by the people to be head of state and would not surrender to parliament, which will effectively impeach the president if it rejects his accountability speech in August.

"I won't tolerate anyone who is violating the Constitution," Wahid said, while implying he was the victim of a "campaign of dirty tricks" in opposition-controlled media.

Both the military and top Cabinet ministers have said repeatedly they are opposed to any declaration of emergency, which would also allow the President to impose press censorship.

Wahid also criticized police for opening fire on his supporters on Wednesday, when they went on the rampage in the East Java town of Pasuruan. One died in the shooting.

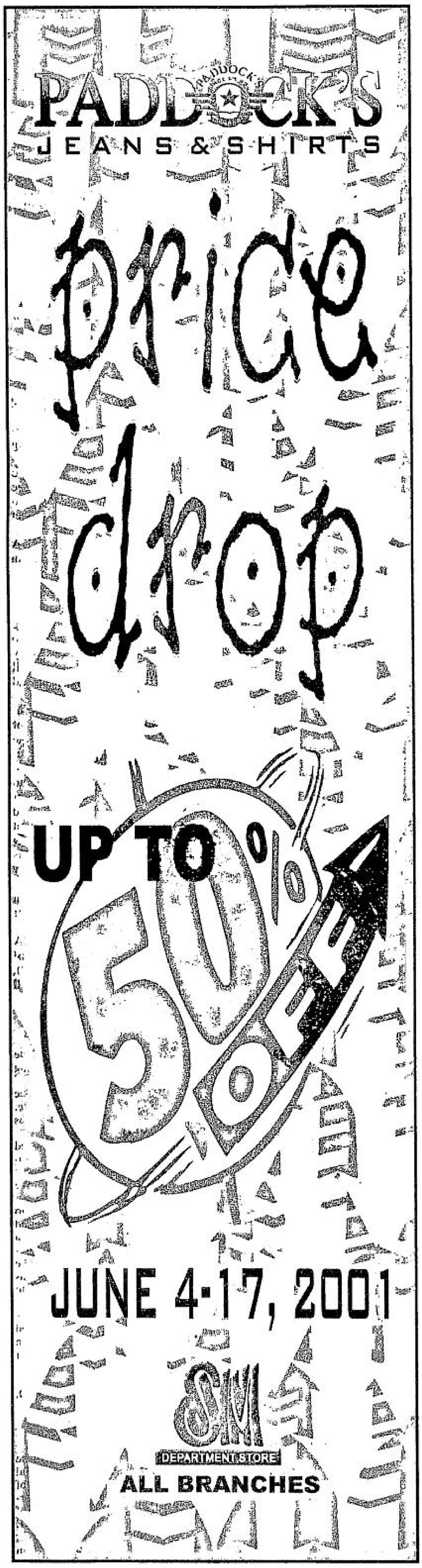
"If the State shoots its people, it is committing a crime," he said.

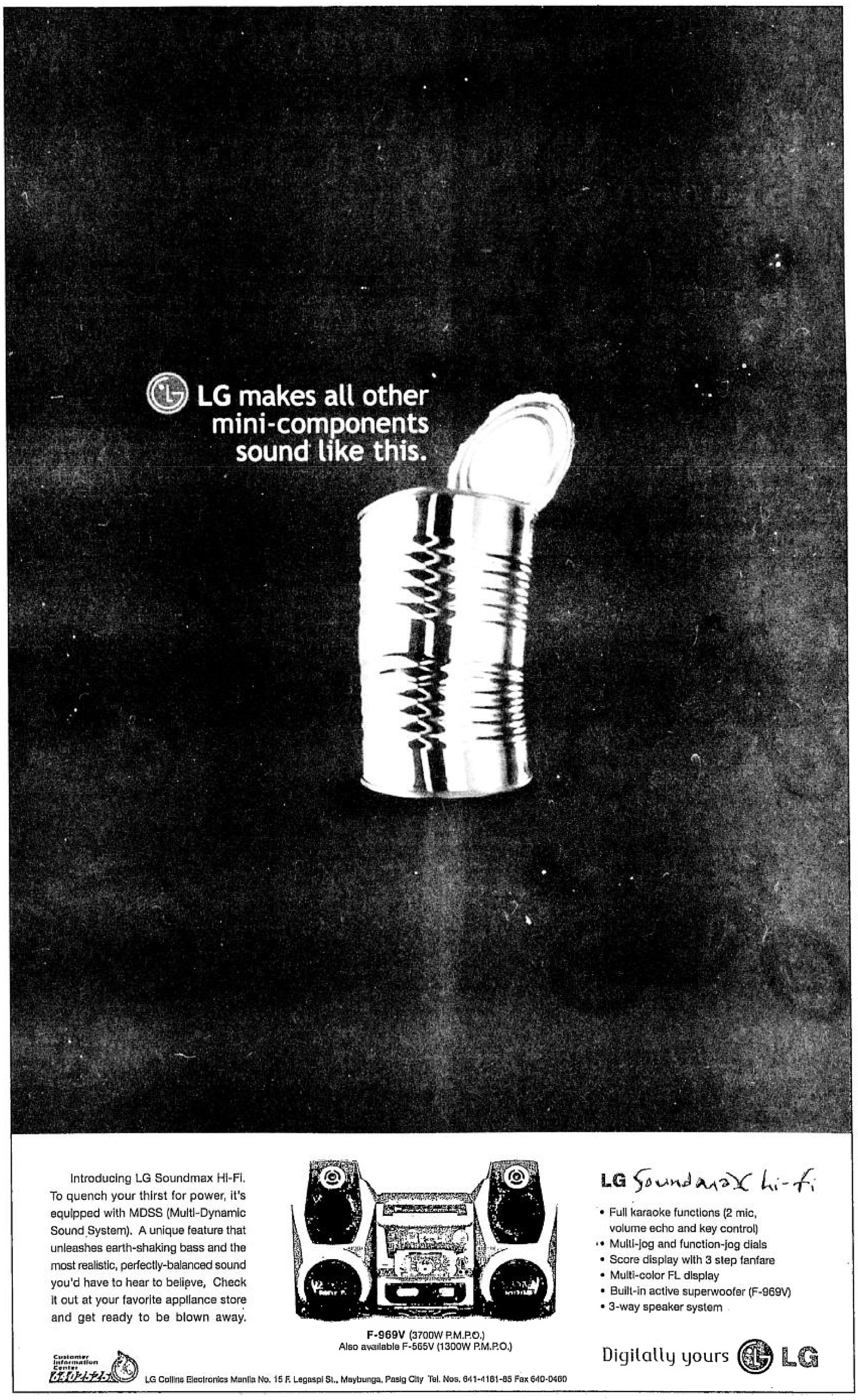
Many fear Wahid's ouster could unleash even more violent riots by his fanatical followers, following mass protests in Jakarta and in East Java this week.

Wahid came to office on a mood of high optimism among Indonesians hopeful of change after the Suharto dictatorship.

But his popularity has sunk after parliament passed what amounted to two votes of no confidence over his alleged involvement in two financial scandals and incompetence. *AFP*

WAHID supporters demanding that their leader dissolve parliament in a Jakarta rally May 31. REUTERS

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Fighting persists despite truce

REUTERS

PALESTINIAN President Yasser Arafat on board a Jordanian military helicopter with the coffin of Palestinian minister Faisal al-Hesseini June 1.

JERUSALEM—Palestinians were preparing a mass funeral procession through the West Bank yesterday for Faisal Husseini, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, who died earlier of a heart attack during a visit to Kuwait.

Meanwhile, violence persisted, despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the Israelis. Palestinians fired four mortar shells early yesterday at the Jewish settlement of Slav in the Gaza Strip. No one was hurt.

A Palestinian teenager was killed Thursday in a clash with Israeli forces, a Palestinian child died a month after being injured in a Gaza explosion and an Israeli settler was killed in a West Bank shooting.

Ahmed Salah Abu el-Hilu, 17, was killed and another critically injured in a clash with Israeli forces near Ramallah, hospital doctors said.

Also, Ramadan Asanei, 12, injured in an explosion in Gaza on April 30, died in a hospital. Two people were killed in the blast in a house that belonged to an activist from the militant Hamas.

Earlier, a Jewish settler, Zvi Shelef, 60, was killed when Palestinians fired at his car in the West Bank, the fourth settler to be killed this week. Angry settlers demanded that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon drop his policy of restraint and hit back. Palestinians have dismissed Sharon's ceasefire call as a publicity stunt, blaming Israel for the violence.

Late Thursday, an Israeli soldier was seriously wounded by Palestinian gunfire at an Israeli Army vehicle near Ramallah in the West Bank, the military said.

Since fighting erupted last September, 483 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 88 on the Israeli side, including 24 settlers.

In the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Farah Bouto, 54, was shot and killed in front of his house by gunmen in a passing car. Bouto was imprisoned for a year by the Palestinian Authority for selling land to Israelis. Palestinian police said they were investigating the killing.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat linked Husseini's death to the violence. He said Husseini's health was affected by Israeli tear gas.

Husseini, scion of a leading Palestinian family in Jerusalem, parlayed the Orient House, an unused family hotel, into an unofficial Palestinian foreign ministry in the Arab section of Jerusalem, angering successive Israeli governments.

For years Husseini conducted dialogues with Israeli peace activists, who called him a moderating influence. However, in recent years Arafat eased Husseini out of leadership roles in what many said was a personal rivalry.

Husseini, 60, was in Kuwait to attend a conference. He died suddenly in his hotel room. His body was flown to Jordan, and from there was to be brought to Ramallah, accompanied by Arafat, and then to Jerusalem. *AP*

Iraq threatens to halt oil dealings

UNITED NATIONS—Iraq threatened Thursday to halt dealings under the UN's oil-for-food program after Security Council members agreed in principle to reform Iraqi sanctions within a month.

The council said it would meet Friday to extend the program until July 3, and one member said in private that a unanimous vote in favor was a foregone conclusion.

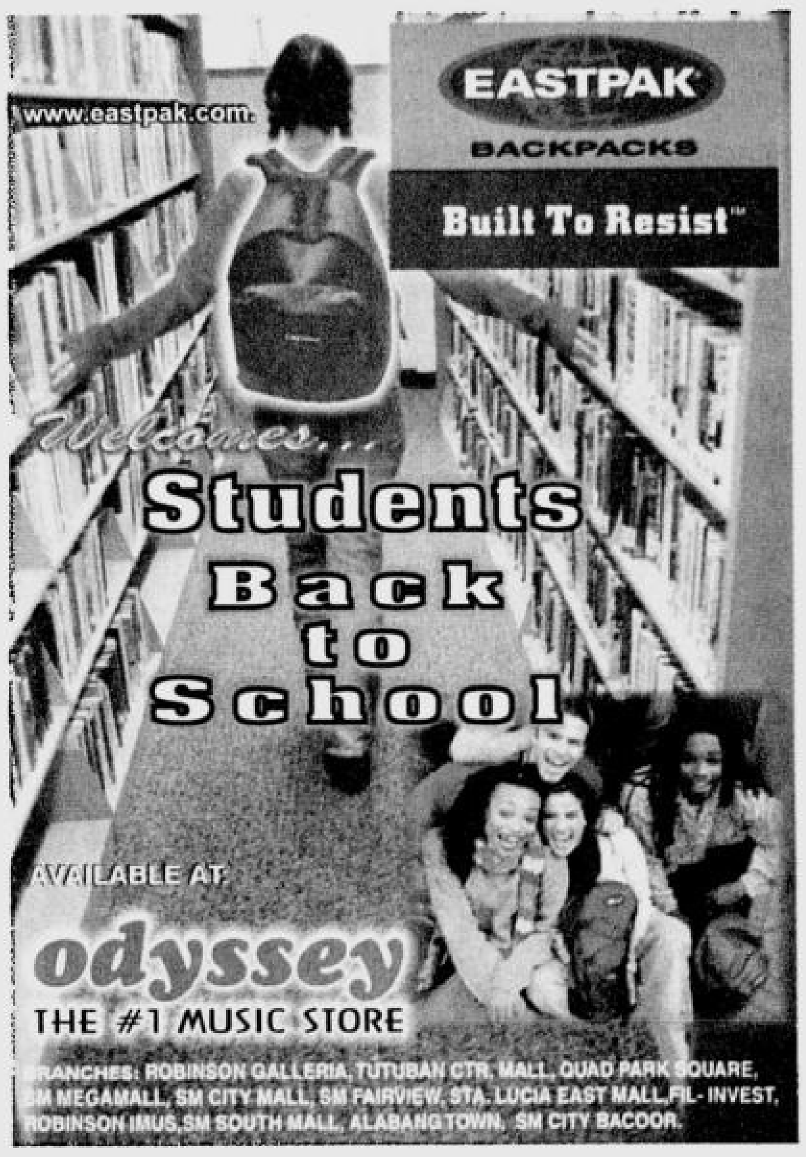
The rollover text expresses the council's "intention to consider new arrangements" for the 11-year-old trade embargo on Iraq and "to adopt and implement" them on July 4.

The current phase of the program expires at midnight Sunday, New York time. The council has usually, but not invariably, extended the program for 180-day periods.

James Cunningham, the acting US ambassador to the United Nations, cautioned reporters: "We need to do a lot of hard work still to fill in the details" of the reforms, proposed by Britain with US support.

The British plan would abolish the embargo on civilian trade with Iraq, while tightening a weapons ban and controls on smuggling outside the oil-for-food program.

Iraq, which is believed to earn about $1.5 billion a year from illegal oil sales, had already said it would halt all exports under UN supervision if the reforms were adopted. *AFP*



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White House grapples with Bush twins booze bust scandal

WASHINGTON—What is a rite of passage for most US university students has been blown into a full-fledged scandal for the daughters of President George W. Bush, caught trying to drink alcohol despite being underage.

Though youths in most US states can be tried as adults at 16 and purchase handguns at 18, the legal age to drink alcohol is still 21.

Trying to circumvent the law is one of the major tests taken by some university students who misuse others' valid identifications or employ counterfeit identification to buy liquor.

While Bush on Wednesday sought to keep media focus on his first-ever environmental policy speech as president, delivered from California's Sequoia National Park, national attention focused southward to Austin, Texas, where Jenna Bush was alleged to have tried to buy alcohol with false identification.

Austin police went to Chuy's Mexican restaurant late Tuesday after receiving an emergency telephone call to report minors attempting to buy alcohol.

When they arrived, the officers found that Jenna and Barbara Bush, both 19, "were alleged to have been involved in this incident," Austin police said in a written statement.

The two were issued criminal citations Thursday for underage drinking; Jenna for allegedly using fake identification to buy a drink and Barbara for illegal possession of alcohol.

This is the first citation for Barbara Bush, a student at her father's alma mater, Yale University.

It's the second time in as many months that Jenna's ill-fated attempts to have a beer or two have made national headlines.

She pleaded no contest last month when arrested for possessing a beer at an Austin nightspot while the Secret Service waited outside. She was ordered to attend alcohol awareness classes and pay court costs of $51.25.

The University of Texas coed, entering her second year in the fall, also garnered unwanted attention in March when she had her Secret Service agents pick up a male friend from jail after he was arrested at a Fort Worth fraternity party.

The second charge could bring Jenna more legal trouble: she faces a potential 60-day suspension of her driver's license, more rigorous community service and a $500 fine.

If she is caught a third time, under a zero-tolerance policy instituted by her father when he was Texas governor, she would automatically lose her driver's license for 90 days and could spend up to six months in jail, said the Texas Department of Public Safety. *AFP*

BIG AND HANDSOME REUTERS

Orson, a rare Australian sea lion, poses for a picture during the launch of environmental information at his enclosure at Sydney's Taronga Zoo June 1. The information explains to visitors how seals and sea lions are harmed by pollution and over-use of the sea's resources.

Mobile phones linked to wild plane swings

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Mobile phones have been blamed for at least two incidents in which aircraft made sudden uncontrolled movements mid-flight, the Civil Aviation Authority reported yesterday.

Both incidents were examples of possible electronic interference with aircraft electronic systems, the authority said in its latest newsletter.

CAA News said tests in Britain have shown signals from mobile telephones inside aircraft can reflect from metallic structures, making them strong enough to exceed trigger levels for critical airplane systems.

The authority said an aircraft preparing to land at Wellington airport last Christmas Eve unexpectedly turned right and climbed while approaching the airport. A passenger's mobile phone is believed to have been the cause.

The uncontrolled movement came at 1,400 feet six kilometers during a landing approach using the aircraft's instruments. The crew quickly corrected the aircraft.

No fault was found with the plane and two following aircraft reported no problems with the instrument landing system. The possibility of ground interference was rejected.

In another incident, an aircraft cruising on autopilot suddenly rolled 30 degrees after a mobile phone rang in a bag in the cockpit.

The CAA did not release the name of the airlines or the type of aircraft involved. *AP*

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Giant dinosaur's fossils unearthed

WASHINGTON—A long-necked animal that weighed more than 60 tons lived on a lush coastal plain in what is now the Sahara Desert some 90 million years ago and may have been the second largest dinosaur ever to walk the Earth, researchers say.

A team led by Joshua B. Smith of the University of Pennsylvania found fossilized remains from the giant animal in the sand of an Egyptian desert near the Bahariya Oasis, scene of other notable dinosaur finds.

Smith and his colleagues identified the monster as a sauropod, a type of plant-eater, and named it Paralititan stromeri. Paralititan means "tidal giant." Stromeri refers to Ernst Stromer, a geologist who found dinosaur fossils in the area in the 1930s and took them to Germany, only to have them destroyed by Allied bombing in World War II.

The new discovery was being published Friday in the journal Science.

"This tells us we had really, really big (plant-eating dinosaurs) hanging out on the coast of North Africa back then," said Smith. He said it was known that Africa had at least three very large predators living 95 million years ago, but until now scientists were puzzled where those massive meat-eaters got their food.

Paralititan answers that question, said Smith. "Now we've found a 90-ton steak that they were eating," said Smith.

Only a few fossilized bones were found at the site, but Smith said they were enough to calculate the size of Paralititan. The key was finding the right humerus, a bone in the four-legged animal that corresponds to the upper arm bone in humans. The bone was 1.65 meters long. *AP*

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AIDS icon succumbs at age 12

JOHANNESBURG—South Africa's 12-year-old AIDS icon Nkosi Johnson died peacefully in his sleep at his Johannesburg home early Friday, his foster mother Gail Johnson announced.

He died at 5:40 a.m., Johnson said.

Nkosi had AIDS-related brain damage and had been semi-comatose since late December, after he suffered severe seizures.

Johnson brought him home on Jan. 4 after doctors said they could not do anything more for him.

The boy was born HIV-positive in Johannesburg in 1989 and given nine months to live, when Johnson took him in at the age of two.

But Feb. 4 marked the 12th birthday of South Africa's longest surviving child AIDS sufferer.

Nkosi captured the world's attention last year when he made a powerful appeal at an international AIDS conference in the east coast city of Durban for people living with HIV and AIDS to be treated like normal people.

"We are normal human beings, we can walk and talk. You can't get AIDS by hugging, kissing and holding hands," he told the audience.

Nkosi challenged the government's AIDS policies in his speech and united millions of South Africans in the fight against the disease. Nkosi first came to the fore in 1997 when Johnson successfully took on parents who were against the boy's admission to the local school.

Former president Nelson Mandela said Nkosi had touched the hearts and inspired millions of people and praised him as an "icon of the struggle for life."

"Children, such as Nkosi Johnson, should be enjoying a life filled with joy and laughter and happiness," Mandela said when he visited Nkosi shortly before his death.

Johnson now runs "Nkosi's Haven," across town from her house in Melville, which is home to 20 children and 11 of their mothers. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Independence seen part of Muslim meet agenda

COTABATO CITY—Hundreds of thousands of Muslims all over Mindanao will gather today in Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, for the 2nd Bangsamoro General Assembly.

Prof. Abu Sayyaf Mansur-Lingga, chair of the Ulama Professional Executive Committee, said the assembly aims to gather the sentiments of Muslims about the current political, social and cultural events unfolding in the country.

He said a communiqué will be made public to announce the results of the general assembly.

On Dec. 5, 1996, about half a million people also converged in Maguindanao, where they drafted the controversial stand on the establishment of a Bangsamoro Republic.

Lingga said when the 2nd Bangsamoro People's Consultative Assembly ends tomorrow, it would either strengthen the previous stand of Muslims on independence or there could be a new consensus of views on the actual solution to the Bangsamoro rebellion.

The participants would include those from the islands of Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-tawi, erstwhile strongholds of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Although still unconfirmed, reports said former ranking members of the MNLF, including those who participated in the plot to oust its chair Nur Misuari, would be taking part in the assembly.

The 2nd Bangsamoro assembly, as in the case of the first, would be staged prior to the formal peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, admitted that the output of the assembly would be included in the position that the group will take in relation to the peace process.

"The MILF will respect whatever decision . . . will be agreed (upon) in the assembly because we believe that it would be reflective of the general sentiments of the Bangsamoro people on what is (a) just, viable and workable solution to the Bangsamoro problem," Kabalu said.

He, however, denied that the MILF had helped mobilize the assembly.

"The people who would be attending there, like in the previous one, have minds of their own and they could never be dictated upon. If they reflect the views of the MILF, then that would only show that the MILF is fighting for what majority of the Bangsamoro people believe in," he said.

Although the MNLF has entered into a peace agreement with the government in September 1996, the MILF, a splinter group of the MNLF, continued to fight for an independent Islamic republic in Mindanao.

Efforts by past administrations to strike a deal with the MILF proved futile until a total war against the guerrillas was declared by ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The military was able to capture the major camps of the MILF during the total war but failed to break the backbone of the guerrillas who resorted to ambuscades.

The MNLF, meantime, continues to demand larger autonomy and has complained of the failure of the government to deliver its promises under the September 1996 peace agreement. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

3 inmates injured

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Three inmates at the provincial jail here were seriously injured after a riot on Thursday. Police said returning inmate Reynaldo Estadillo threw arrows at his inmates when they tried to beat him as a "welcome ritual." Estadillo, who spent six years in prison on robbery-hold up charges, was released last December. He was arrested again this week on murder charges. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Singit' yields high

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Thanks to "*singit*" cropping, 33,615 hectares of rice fields in Cagayan and Isabela planted in April are expected to yield 157,990 metric tons of palay in July. *Singit* cropping means planting crops outside the regular rice planting season to avoid losses due to floods and to improve the quality of grains during the rainy season, said agriculture regional director Gumercindo Lasam. He said this would increase the region's buffer stock and help reduce rice importation. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rilloraza, 83

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Former San Fernando mayor and war veteran Godofredo Rilloraza, 83, died at the Lorma Medical Center on Monday after a lingering illness. Rilloraza was inducted into the United States Armed Forces in the Far East as second lieutenant in August 1941 and was sent to Bataan. When Bataan fell to Japanese forces in 1942, he was one of the thousands who surrendered and joined the infamous Death March, from the town of Bagac, Bataan, to Capas, Tarlac. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 die in mishap

PILA, Laguna—The civil registrar here and a companion were killed and a family of three were seriously injured in two vehicular accidents here and in a nearby "killer highway" of Calauan town. Mario Mercado, 54, this town's civil registrar and his relative Loreto Buenviaje were killed on the spot about 9:30 p.m. last week when a speeding jeepney hit the two while they were crossing the highway. On Monday evening, five vehicles figured in multiple collisions along a "killer highway" in Bangyas, Calauan, which seriously injured a couple and their small child. *Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Live grenade found

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified men planted a live hand grenade in front of the house of a member of the Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBC) of Parang, Maguindanao Ustadz Subanon Glang. Insp. Sukarno Dicay, Parang police chief, said the grenade was placed inside an empty can with its safety pin already removed. He said accompanying the grenade was a fake mission order issued to Parang reelectionist Mayor Ismael Biruar, which was meant to mislead police investigators. Bomb experts blew up the explosive. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

'I'm terribly in pain,' wrote Iloilo gunman in suicide note

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—"This is the only way I can stop the pain I'm having."

Thus read a portion of the letter allegedly written by Antonio Baylon, a distraught employee of a lending firm who went on a shooting rampage Thursday morning, killing his two co-employees and wounding another before shooting himself dead

His parents found the letter in his living quarters at the house of the lending firm's owner, Joemarie Escamilla.

Police expressed belief that the undated letter was written the night before Baylon shot dead Larry Blace, 37 and Mary Ann Deloso, 27 and wounded Rita Espino, 31, who is still recuperating at the Iloilo St. Paul's Hospital.

Baylon and the victims were employees of the Escamilla Credit Facilities Inc. at Hoskyn's Compound on Guanco Street, at the heart of this city's commercial center.

"Please forgive me for what I am going to do. I'm terribly in pain," Baylon said in a one-page letter found together with his clothes and other belongings.

"I am sick and tired of my life," wrote Baylon as he asked his parents to forgive him and to pray for him.

Baylon's father, Basilio, and his brother also found tranquilizers and anti-depressants in his room, said SPO3 Manuel Magarse Jr., police investigator of the police precinct 1.

But Magarse said they would subject the letter to examination by handwriting experts to verify if it was really written by Baylon.

He added that Baylon's motive for the shooting remained unknown.

Police investigation showed that Baylon, using a 9-mm Beretta, shot his officemates shortly after they arrived for work at 8:45 a.m.

Baylon first shot Blace, a townmate from Bago City in Negros Occidental. He then shot Espino, then Deloso. All three suffered bullet wounds in the head. Deloso also suffered a bullet wound in the right side of the body.

After shooting the victims, Baylon shot himself in the right temple with the bullet exiting in the left side.

Police recovered eight live 9-mm bullets and six empty shells from the licensed firearm owned by Baylon, a member a local gun club.

They also recovered a seat cushion with bullet holes that Baylon placed over the gun's barrel during the shooting of Blace, apparently to muffle the sound of gunshots.

3 communist rebels slain in new clashes with gov't troops in Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Three suspected New People's Army guerrillas were killed and two government soldiers were seriously hurt in separate clashes on Thursday and Friday in Bataan and Pangasinan, reports said.

In Bataan, a communist rebel was killed and two Army soldiers were seriously wounded in a 20-minute gunfight at the foothills of Barangay Maute in Hermosa town.

The slain dissident belonged to the NPA's Lino Blas Command operating in the hinterlands of Bataan, Pampanga and Zambales, according to Supt. Perfecto Palad, Bataan police chief.

Cpl. Oscar Bunoy and Pfc. Daniel Balnawe, both from the Army's 24th Infantry Battalion, suffered bullet wounds in the mouth and back, he said.

They were airlifted to the V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City.

Palad said two wounded rebels and 30 companions "fled by using seven civilians as shields."

He said three companies of the 24th IB and the Hermosa police launched joint operations early Friday after receiving tips from the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, a rival armed group of the NPA, about the presence of NPA rebels in Hermosa.

In Pangasinan, two suspected communist rebels were killed during anti-insurgency operations in Umingan town on Thursday.

Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Pangasinan police director, identified one of the fatalities as one Ka George

Police and the Army captured a suspected NPA member, Alberto Guilermo, 18, of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija

Residents of Barangay Carayungan in Umingan told police they saw seven NPA rebels roaming the mountainous village, Bataoil said.

Recovered from the site were four M-16 Armalite rifles, an M-14 rifle, assorted bullets and anti-government documents.

In Pampanga, the human rights group Karapatan in Central Luzon accused government soldiers of killing civilians during Monday's encounter in San Jose, Tarlac.

In a fact-finding report it submitted to Human Rights Commissioner Aurora Navarrete-Recina during a dialogue Friday, Karapatan said three of nine supposed rebels reported killed by government soldiers were civilians.

They were identified as Marcelino de la Cruz, an Aeta and United Methodist Church pastor, and Remy Rueda Rivera and Adelaida Cabiao, farmers from Sitio Baag in Barangay Iba.

De la Cruz, in whose home the NPA rebels took shelter, was hit in the head, according to his brother Alejandro.

"There really was an overkill because the bodies showed signs that they were shot at close range and despite shouts of appeal by De la Cruz that there were civilians in the hut," Alan Cabas, a UMC pastor, said.

"They dragged and threw the dead in the helicopter, like they were toys," Alejandro told Recina. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Alert raised for floods, landslides

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) in South Cotabato has alerted residents of at least three towns in this province following landslides that caused the collapse of a portion of Lake Maughan's crater wall in T'boli town on Tuesday.

Bella Lechonsito, PDCC action officer, said continuous rains for about a week caused the landslides at the eastern portion of the lake about 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Flashflood alerts were declared along the lake's river-tributary particularly the Allah River which traverses the low-lying towns of T'boli, Surallah and Sto. Niño.

The provincial government has put up a monitoring station in Barangay Salacafe in T'boli after the Lake Maughan tragedy in September 1995.

Lechonsito said the landslides created a hole on a portion of Mt. Malibingoy, which serves as the lake's eastern crater wall.

This, she said, has raised the lake's water level by a meter.

The collapse of the lake's crater wall along Mt. Malibingoy in 1995 triggered the worst-ever flashflood in the province, which left around 90 people dead and P900-million worth of crops and infrastructure destroyed.

The crater also has several cracks around it. The crater is also made up of soft pyroclastic materials.

The PDCC chief revealed that on Tuesday, flood control and monitoring teams composed of engineers and geologists from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Irrigation Administration and the Department of Public Works and Highways were already sent to the area.

"We are closely monitoring the situation since the water level has been increasing and it might overflow anytime," she said.

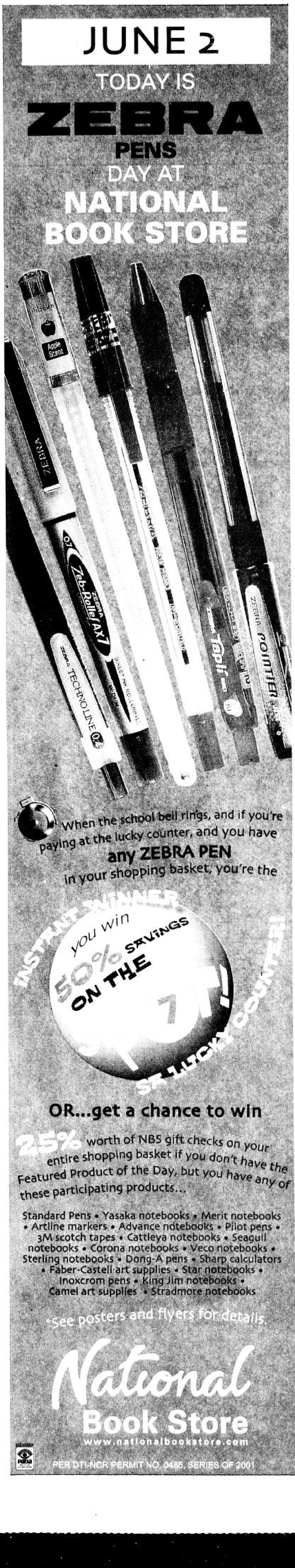
The PDCC further reported that they are monitoring the water level of the Ga-o River, the main waterway from Lake Maughan, as its upper portion was reportedly clogged with fallen logs.

"There were logs blocking the lake's main water channel, about 500 to 700 meters away, resulting (in) the impounding of water."

The situation, she said, was alarming since another disaster could take place should the logs break off.

Aside from warning the residents, evacuation of residents residing along the banks of the Allah River had been ordered by the PDCC.

The provincial government is strictly enforcing an ordinance passed three years ago by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, mandating the evacuation of people 100 meters away from the river banks. *Aquiles Z. Zonio with reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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FITNESS PROGRAM

PNP scraps waistline rule

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police officials expect a higher passing mark among policemen in next week's nationwide physical fitness test now that the policemen are no longer required to keep a 34-inch waistline.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, said most policemen failed previous tests because most had difficulty trimming their waistlines to 34 inches and maintaining it.

Now, policemen will pass the test regardless of the size of their waistlines provided they complete the required activities, he said.

Policemen under the age of 40 should be able to run 100 meters in less than 18.5 minutes and a kilometer in less than six minutes and 20 seconds.

They should also be able to do at least 38 push-ups in two minutes, 20 sit-ups and five pull-ups in another two minutes.

Last year, 34 out of the 940 policemen in Negros Oriental exceeded the 34-inch waistline limit imposed by then Director Gen. Panfilo Lacson, former Philippine National Police chief.

They were sent to the police regional office in Cebu to undergo a rigorous weight loss program.

After the training, 31 policemen succeeded in reducing their waistlines while three others obtained medical certificates explaining their failure to trim down.

Policemen who were desperately trying to trim their waistlines admitted that it was "a tough job."

Some even resorted to the anti-obesity pill Xenical just to shed off the unwanted bulge.

Policemen who failed previous tests were temporarily relieved from their posts and were given three months to shape up. A second failure meant immediate relief from the police force for good.

Lacson initiated the physical fitness program upon his assumption into office as PNP chief under the ousted administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

The program was initially designed to improve the image of the policeman from one of a pot-bellied, corrupt and inefficient agent of the government to one of a physically fit, respectable law enforcer.

Fee hike forces exodus from private schools

BAGUIO CITY—Rising tuition and other school fees have forced parents to transfer their children from private schools to public schools this year, education officials said here Wednesday.

The timing of this apparent exodus has never been so bad, said Dr. Virgilio Bautista, president of the University of Baguio.

Private high schools here have just been deregulated this school year, allowing owners to increase tuition and other school fees.

While tuition and other fees in colleges and universities here have increased by 5 to 10 percent, most schools have opted to raise only selected fees while a few have considered reviewing their rates due to low enrolment.

Most of the city's seven universities have either started their enrolment this week or are preparing for enrolment next week.

This early, at least two universities have already indicated low enrolment turnouts.

Officially, private elementary and high schools in Baguio have posted only a 5-percent decrease in enrolment, compared to June last year, according to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

But DECS officials have detected a massive exodus of enrollees from private schools to 25 public elementary schools here. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Kidnapping won't stop Pampanga lahar dikes

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—The Abu Sayyaf's abduction of a contractor is not causing any hitches on his construction company's P270-million dike project in Pampanga's three lahar-threatened towns, government engineers said on Thursday.

The concreting of the San Fernando-Santo-Tomas-Minalin Tail Dike by R-II Builders, owned by kidnapped contractor Reghis Romero II, is ongoing, according to Amando Ramirez, chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways' Mt. Pinatubo Emergency Project Management Office (MPE-PMO).

The 9.7-km dike intends to prevent lahar from spilling to this city and Santo Tomas and Minalin towns that lie along the Pasig-Potrero River, the most active drainage of Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

"In fact, it is 70 percent completed. And the works there have not been discontinued since Monday," Ramirez said, placating the anxiety of residents who have been inquiring on the status of the project.

Romero, a native of Angeles City, was reported to be among the 17 Filipinos kidnapped last Sunday by the bandit group Abu Sayyaf at the Dos Palmas resort in Puerto Princesa City.

Ramirez, citing unconfirmed reports received by the DPWH regional office here, said the bandits have called up the estranged wife of Romero to demand P150 million in ransom.

R-II Builders also won the contracts to build a 5-km evacuation road in Bacolor town and rehabilitate a 1.6-km stretch of the Gugu Creek—also funded under the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's P3.5-billion loan.

Leopoldo Sanchez, R-II Builders president, has yet to issue a formal statement on the status of these projects in the light of Romero's kidnapping.

Projects cornered by R-II Builders are due to be finished by October, the peak of the rainy season in Central Luzon.

Ramirez expressed confidence that the projects would be completed, saying the company, which also built the Global City in Makati City, has "a reputable standing and has been meeting its obligations to the government."

In a related development, Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has asked the MPE-PMO to rush the completion of other lahar-mitigating projects in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, which lie around Mt. Pinatubo.

The strengthening of the 3.25-km stretch of the southwest corner of the 56-km long FVR Megadike, Pampanga's main lahar catchment, is 25 percent completed, Ramirez said.

The project, funded also by the JBIC, intends to prevent the avalanche of lahar to Sta. Rita, Bacolor, Guagua and Lubao towns.

However, there are no additional funds to scoop out lahar from the downstream areas of the Guagua-Pasac River, which leads to the Manila Bay, according to Isabelita Manalo, officer-in-charge of the DPWH's Mt. Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office.

"We only have less than P25 million," Manalo said of the remaining funds of the P119 million released for desilting during the Estrada administration.

Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid has asked Datumanong to approve the release of P278 million for the desilting of lahar-clogged tributaries in the province.

The governors of Tarlac and Zambales have also requested for desilting funds, according to Manalo. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Palawan will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 35° Lo 24°	Baguio Hi 25° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao Hi 32° Lo 23°
Laoag Hi 32° Lo 24°	Clark Zone Hi 34° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 32° Lo 22°
Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 24°	Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 33° Lo 24°
Cebu Hi 32° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 26°	Gen. Santos Hi 30° Lo 23°
Zamboanga Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/02/01

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Docs list 3 top causes of death in Bohol

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY--Heart diseases, pneumonia and cancer were the top three causes of death among Boholanos last year, records from the Provincial Health Office showed.

Records showed that there were 900 deaths attributed to heart diseases in the year 2000, accounting for 93.30 percent of Bohol's mortality rate.

A close second was pneumonia with 835 deaths or 86.52 percent.

A far third was all forms of cancer, which accounted for 321 deaths or 33.26 percent.

Others in the top 10 causes of death in Bohol were hypertension, vascular diseases, tuberculosis, cardio-vascular arrest, septicemia, bleeding peptic ulcers and accidents.

"The figures show our health program is slowly creating an impact," said Dr. Francisco Razalo, Bohol provincial health officer.

Razalo said of the 10 leading causes of death, only three are communicable. These are pneumonia, tuberculosis and septicemia.

"This means that we are succeeding in our fight against communicable diseases," Razalo said.

Deaths due to communicable diseases are rampant in underdeveloped communities.

Until three years ago, Razalo said most of the top 10 causes of death in Bohol were caused by communicable diseases.

"What we had last year were diseases that are commonly found in developed communities," Razalo added.

Deaths caused by heart diseases have, however, been steadily rising.

Figures from the PHO showed that from 1995-1999, heart diseases accounted for only 84.94 percent of deaths. Last year, the figures rose to 93.30.

Razalo said the rise in the incidence of non-communicable diseases may be attributed to factors such as changes in lifestyle, eating habits and environment.

"For instance, more people are taking more stressful jobs and eat meat more," he added.

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INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▪ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Polls split, reunite Antique clans

By Hazel P. Villa
San Jose, Antique

IT WAS graduation day at the Antique National School in the early 1950s and Gov. Calixto Zaldivar, the guest of honor, was impressed with a boy who delivered a stirring and superb valedictory address.

"Kampeon! (Great!) That boy will become governor of Antique someday," said Zaldivar. He was told that the boy was Evelio Javier, the son of his *kumpadre* Everardo Javier.

Such was the lasting impression the young Evelio gave to Zaldivar that the then governor vowed to see the boy grow up well and become governor of Antique.

Zaldivar fulfilled his promise. And thus began the saga of the Javier and Zaldivar families that saw the most successful of familial and political partnerships transform into intense election jousts that may have cost Antique its future in the last 14 years.

With the recent victory of Evelio's younger brother, Exequiel, as re-elected congressman of Antique's lone congressional district, and Governor-elect Salvacion "Sally" Zaldivar-Perez, the daughter of former Gov. Calixto Zaldivar—the two families again cemented the partnership that had once paved the way for Antique's march to progress.

"The younger brother of Evelio is now helping the younger sister of Enrique the same way Evelio helped Enrique in the past," said Sally.

Sally was referring to that one extraordinary moment in the province's history when Evelio gave up his post as governor to Sally's elder brother Enrique.

Enrique was then congressman of Antique. His father Calixto left the leadership of Antique to him while he accepted the post of associate justice of the Supreme Court.

'Crazy about Evelio'

Justice Zaldivar was looking for a candidate for governor in 1972 who would at the same time make a good partner for his son, the congressman. He remembered Evelio and had the young man fetched.

Sally remembered how incredulous and reluctant the 28-year-old Ateneo law graduate was then. Evelio had just passed the bar and was settling down to a life of teaching at the Ateneo and practicing law.

"Evelio protested. He said he had no money and people to support him but my father insisted that he would be the one to take care of Evelio's campaign as long as he is in partnership with Enrique," said Sally.

Evelio was up against Julius Pacificador, elder brother of former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador.

"Julius laughed at him. He said, '*Sin-o ang musmos nga ina? Ma-mah jong na lang ako*! (Who is that kid? I'd rather play mah-jong).' And that was exactly what he did and lost to Evelio," said Zaldivar-Perez who reminisced on that campaign when it was the people who gave money to Evelio "because they were crazy about him."

Evelio's victory was some sort of Camelot for Antique. He was the youngest Filipino to become governor at 28 and the members of the families that mattered were in power—Enrique was congressman and the elder Zaldivar who was responsible for it all was SC associate justice.

Sally, on the other hand, was her father's private secretary while Evelio's younger brother Exequiel was wrapping up his law studies at the Ateneo.

Then came martial law. Congress was abolished and Enrique found himself without a job. The Javiers and Zaldivars were starting to be a pain in the neck for budding dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Evelio openly criticized Marcos while the elder Zaldivar played the role of "dissenting judge," having penned a decision opposing Marcos' strong-arm tactics. It was obvious that the elder Zaldivar was Evelio's role model.

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TWO clans torn apart by politics are reunited by politics—Sally Zaldivar-Perez and Exequiel Javier campaigning together in one of their Antique sorties. HAZEL VILLA

Having spent most of his last productive years living up to being a "dissenting judge," Justice Calixto Zaldivar died of a heart attack in 1979 at the age of 75.

"Evelio insisted that my father's remains be brought back to Antique so that the people could pay their last respects. My inconsolable mother was comforted when she saw all the people who loved my father and especially so when Evelio gave a beautiful tribute," said Sally.

A big blow

Justice Zaldivar's death was a big blow to the Zaldivars and the Javiers. Evelio empathized with their sorrow and one day in 1980, cloistered himself in a hotel room in Iloilo City.

Sally narrated that when Evelio came out, he called for Enrique and said, "I am giving the governorship to you. I want to comfort you."

It was Enrique's turn to be incredulous. There were no elections during martial law and any post can be given, transferred or even created as long as it had the permission of Marcos.

The Zaldivars up to this day, said Sally, could not forget Evelio's reason for giving up the governor's seat to Enrique: "I know how to pay a debt of gratitude."

"Evelio was not filled with power. His family could not believe that he gave up power but he insisted that it was the only way he could repay the goodness of my father," said Sally.

Jobless, penniless and on the bad side of the Marcoses, Evelio was virtually in career limbo. The Zaldivars looked for a scholarship for him through the Asia Foundation and eventually, Evelio left to get a master's degree in Public Administration at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Evelio and his family were settling down to a stable life in the United States when Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was assassinated in 1983. There was no stopping Evelio from coming home and leading protest rallies against the Marcoses.

In 1984, he ran for assemblyman against Arturo Pacificador, then Antique's most influential politician.

On the eve of the 1984 Batasang Pambansa Election, seven of Javier's supporters were killed in an ambush on the Pangpang Bridge in Sibalom town, an attack believed to have been initiated by Pacificador's men. Four of those killed were members of the Zaldivar family. This incident stalled the declaration of a winner in the Antique Batasan race, which remained contested until 1986, when Evelio was brutally killed.

(The Commission on Elections declared in 1986 that Pacificador won in the 1984 Batasang Pambasa race but it was overturned in 1987 by the Supreme Court which declared Javier the real winner)

Seventeen years after the Pangpang massacre, Pacificador was acquitted of charges that he masterminded the ambush. He, however, remains detained at the Antique provincial jail as the principal accused in the 1986 murder of Evelio.

Evelio's sacrifice

"Evelio decided not to go back to the US with his family because he had to work for justice. We became Cory Aquino's provincial coordinators," said Zaldivar-Perez.

For three years, freedom fighter Evelio was in the thick of protest rallies until men angered by his charisma and hold on the masses snuffed out his life.

Evelio was standing at the steps of the provincial capitol during the canvassing of votes for the snap elections on Feb. 11, 1986 when hooded armed men opened fire. Evelio ran for cover but the gunmen finished him off with more shots inside a shop's makeshift bathroom.

The nation mourned Evelio's death and it became one of the turning points that led to the Edsa Revolution and saw the return of democracy. But it also saw the souring of relationships between the Javiers and the Zaldivars, once formidable allies.

Exequiel, Evelio's younger brother, was pushed to the limelight and had to carry his slain brother's torch during the 1987 elections. For some reason, the Zaldivars led by Enrique fielded Sally against Exequiel for the congressional post. She again lost to Exequiel in the 1992 and 1995 elections for the same position.

Reconciliation

The Javier-Zaldivar impasse was broken only in 1997 when Gideon, Evelio's eldest son, made way for his uncle and Sally to meet and smoke the peace pipe.

In 1998, Exequiel won as governor of Antique. During the same elections, Sally did not run for any position and instead campaigned for the Joseph Estrada-Edgardo Angara tandem. She also carried Exequiel's candidacy during the campaign and for the first time, Exequiel won in the Zaldivar hometown of Pandan.

Shortly after the 1998 elections, Sally said it was Exequiel who further extended the hand of political reconciliation.

"When I came home, Exequiel had a huge streamer hung at the plaza with the words, 'Welcome home, Usec. Sally Perez. All is forgotten,'" said Sally. (President Estrada had by then appointed Sally as presidential legislative liaison officer with a rank of undersecretary.)

When the two teamed up for this year's elections, they trounced their opponents by more than 9,000 and 10,000 votes. They teamed up even if Javier was a candidate of the administration Lakas-NUCD while Zaldivar-Perez remained allied with the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP).

The reconciliation came at a time when Exequiel had a falling out with Evelio's close friend and his own political ally, former Gov. Jovito Plameras. Plameras squared off with Exequiel and lost in this year's elections.

"People are happy that we reconciled and that is one reason we won. We are natural allies. We have a common bond in my father and Evelio and we had a sad history. Now we can work together," said Zaldivar-Perez.

For Antique's two most prominent families, the past magnanimous acts of Justice Calixto Zaldivar and Evelio Javier have caught up with the present and they pray that progress and justice won't be long in coming for their benighted province.

ANTONIA. Portrait of a child struggling to live. HAZEL VILLA

A child struggles to see, hear, live

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

THE FIRST time she heard sound when the doctor put on her hearing aid, three-and-a-half-year-old Antonia's nearly blind eyes lit up. It was a whole new world for the girl diagnosed with multiple congenital defects.

Antonia Precious Marie Jamandre knew something beautiful was happening to her. Her being able to hear despite severe hearing loss was but one of the several miracles that went the way of her young life.

For Antonia's adoptive mother, Letty, the greatest miracle was that this child, abandoned at birth at the hospital, has reached her age, determined to live when doctors thought she wouldn't survive.

Antonia's eyes had cataracts when she was born and they were discovered only when Letty saw that the child's eyes had an unusual color. Later, she was diagnosed to have severe-to-profound hearing loss. She also has no vaginal canal and what may cost her life now are complications that may come from a blood vessel in the heart that did not close after she was born (*Patent Ductus Arteriosus or PDA*).

What greatly worries Letty, a 57-year-old English teacher at the Iloilo National High School, is that Antonia might suffer from complications anytime unless this blood vessel is operated on.

The *ductus arteriosus* is a wide muscular blood vessel joining the pulmonary artery (main artery to the lungs) to the aorta (main artery to the body). It normally closes after birth. If it fails to close, PDA happens and blood continues to flow from the aorta to the pulmonary artery.

The altered circulation results in increased breathing, increased workload for the heart, fluid in the lungs, enlargement of the right heart and increased lung workload.

"Every time her nails turn blue, I get nervous and we rush her to the hospital," said Letty who rents a room in Lapaz District with her husband. The couple is childless.

'Simple' but costly operation

At three and a half, Antonia's weight of 14.5 kilograms belongs to that of a year-old baby.

Pediatric cardiologist Dr. Rosemarie Castronuevo told Letty that all Antonia needs is a "relatively simple operation" that would close the PDA through an incision in her left underarm.

But this simple operation will cost P150,000 to P200,000, an amount beyond Letty's reach.

"That is why I said Inday Tonia (Antonia) is a miracle baby because she is still alive even when we kept on postponing her operation because we have no money Where will we find that kind of money? This is a great financial predicament for us but this baby has to live," said Letty.

Letty herself did not expect what Antonia could bring her because the discharge slip of this unwanted child from the hospital said she was normal. It was only a few months after she was born that Antonia showed signs of having multiple congenital defects.

Letty said she has virtually nothing left to pay for the child's medical expenses, considering, too, that as beneficiary, Antonia has almost used up Letty's medical insurance.

Letty also has no life savings since she took care of her alcoholic brother's four children, two of whom she has sent to college.

"People ask me why I have to suffer for someone who is not my own. When I got her from the hospital, I had no second thoughts. I hugged her because I pitied her and she awakened my maternal instincts," said Letty.,

Letty did not shudder at the thought of asking for help and Good Samaritans have come to her rescue—like Dr. Cesar Uy of the Iloilo Doctors Hospital who operated on the eyes of Antonia twice, for free. He also donated the eyeglasses that the little girl is wearing and gives her free follow-up checkups.

A kind woman from a religious group who requested not to be identified also donated Antonia's body-type hearing aid.

Another Samaritan

Now, all that Letty is praying for is another Samaritan who can eventually save the life of Antonia.

"Antonia's cardiologist says it is only the doctors at the Philippine Heart Center that can close her aorta and that is what I am praying for, a surgeon who would be kind enough to help us," said Letty.

The teacher is all-praises for her little Antonia. She was given an I.Q. test when she turned three and her scores showed her having the I.Q. of a four-year-old—despite being deaf.

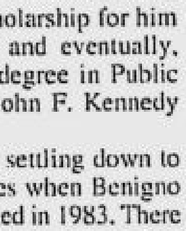
Letty turns teary-eyed every time she speaks of Antonia's struggle to live—from the time she was able to see and now, to hear.

"She is always asking for her hearing aids, signaling that she wants to wear them. She claps her hands when she hears music. She knows there is much ahead of her if only she could live long enough," said Letty.

For the childless and battle-scarred Letty, just hearing Antonia say "Mama" and "Papa"—the only words she knows as of now—is balm to her tired spirit, sweet music to her soul. She now can only pray that Antonia's symphony will play long after the battle is over.

Cebuanos have spoken

BREAKAWAY



Ivan P. Suansing

"THE COMELEC has spoken," Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia said as he grudgingly conceded defeat to his bitter rival, mayor-elect Tomas "Comeback Kid" Osmeña. He didn't say, "the Cebuanos have spoken."

It was a half-hearted concession. Garcia denied the former city mayor any credit, instead blaming for his setback a "flawed" electoral process and teachers who allegedly sold out. In local politics, it appears there are always winners and those who were cheated.

An emotional Garcia nearly burst into tears as he read his concession speech last Tuesday. The mayor's camp claimed that he was leading comfortably in pre-election surveys and was a victim of complacency.

Tommy Osmeña clawed back into contention with a meticulous sitio-based campaign that allowed him to slip past the incumbent official's porous barangay network. He clinched victory on election day with a more active vote-delivery machine.

He squeaked through with a margin of only a little more than 3,000 votes, in what started and wound up as one of the tightest mayoral contests in the city.

Tommy's successful return to politics means a more functional city government. The Garcia administration moved smoothly from one anomaly to the next and couldn't accomplish anything in six years.

Alvin will leave City Hall with 28 graft cases in his luggage, and sad memories of controversy-riddled projects that would have made a difference.

There are questions about Osmeña's character, his arrogance specifically, but apparently none about his competence and sense of purpose. He vows to make Cebu City "number one again" and the urban poor his top beneficiary. In the end, that's how he will be judged.

The Bando Osmeña-Pundok Kauswagan (BO-PK), the party he founded, went on to sweep the top positions in Cebu City—two congressional seats, the vice mayoralty and 11 out of 16 city council slots. It also delivered the goods for People Power Coalition (PPC) senatorial candidates who took the city, 12-1.

BO-PK's continued dominance in the coming years will be challenged by Garcia and his nascent Kugi Uswag Sugbo (Kusog), the first time in recent years that city residents will see a political opposition at work.

* * *

KINGMAKER. Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña's image as kingmaker was tarnished with the crushing defeat of his protegee, Fernando Celeste, in the hands of Osmeña's nemesis, Gov. Pablo Garcia.

In an apparent attempt to save face, Osmeña declared he would initiate an electoral protest because of "massive fraud." If there was massive fraud, how did the senator's son, John-John, manage to win the vice-gubernatorial race?

Celeste, a popular radioman with "Erap-like tendencies," showed grace in defeat and accepted his rival's victory.

"No need to mess things up," Celeste said.

The grumbling, ironically, came from the winner. After his proclamation, Governor Garcia announced he was bolting Promdi because of Lito Osmeña's (Sonny's estranged brother) failure to produce funds for party candidates. In contrast, Sonny's Alayon Party worked like a well-oiled machine.

Garcia said he won because of Lakas money and would now defect to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's party.

Other Promdi candidates weren't as lucky. Celestino Martinez Jr., Garcia's running mate, lost. So did five Promdi congressional aspirants who were wiped out by their Alayon foes. Only Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez, a prosecutor in the Estrada impeachment trial, survived the onslaught. She now considers herself "Lakas."

* * *

NEW LEADER. Optimism is in the air in Iloilo City. Finally, a development-oriented leader is at the helm.

After a long wait, Mayor-elect Jerry Treñas will have a chance to implement the master plan—if it's not outmoded yet—that he has been pushing since 1992. With Treñas calling the shots, Ilonggos will see more business and less politics in the next three years.

As acting mayor in 1992, Treñas adopted the slogan "Think Big, Think Iloilo." He will probably use it again to encourage conservative Ilonggos to go out of their shells.

NOTICE

THIS is to announce that Nereo C. Lujan is no longer connected with the INQUIRER effective February 2001.

ABU SABAYA, spokesperson of the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf, is shown in this file photo taken last August.

RAFFY TIMA/GMA

Soldiers up against warrior class

(From page A1)

the Tausug-led and -dominated Moro National Liberation Front.

It was then that he learned not only the language of the Tausug but also, and more important, the nature of this warrior race.

"I addressed them only in their native tongue," he said, recalling his days in the field.

As AFP chief of staff in the early 1990s, Abadia directed operations against the Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf, whose fighters were the descendants of the MNLF Tausugs.

"You must make him know you can match him in battle. Better if you can show him you are superior to him," he said.

According to Abadia, the Tausug respects courage but is also quick to take advantage of openings and weaknesses that his enemies may show. Thus, his counsel to the boys in uniform: "Don't give him a chance."

Lesson learned

In the AFP's drive against the Abu Sayyaf during Abadia's watch, the bandit group was reduced to only about 50 members between 1993 and 1994. Ultimately, they were forced to relocate from Basilan to Sulu.

"One lesson we learned was that there should be no letup in pressure. You simply have to run them to the ground," Abadia said.

In Sulu, the Abu Sayyaf found temporary sanctuary in the bases of the MNLF, where it later regained strength.

"We were then negotiating peace with the MNLF," Abadia recalled. "We could have hit the Abu Sayyaf while (it was) hiding behind the skirts of the MNLF, but the national leadership didn't want to upset the MNLF."

Citing his personal experience, Abadia said giving the Abu Sayyaf no quarter should be the rule in the current military offensives against the bandit group.

"We just have to keep hitting them hard," he said.

While he concedes that the Tausug is a natural warrior, he believes that the superior training of government forces will ultimately rule the battlefield.

"Guts and audacity can spring from training, and we are better trained. They don't have a Fort Bonifacio or a Fort Magsaysay," Abadia said.

He pointed out that pound for pound, a well-trained soldier was a good match to, or was even better than, a Tausug warrior.

"The only difference is that a Tausug man is expected to become a warrior from birth, and is prepared to be one as he grows up," Abadia said, adding: "Our soldiers pass through other stages not related to fighting, like attending school as a student, before deciding whether they want to become part of the military."

Is there anything the ordinary soldier and the Abu Sayyaf fighter have in common?

"He may be Abu Sayyaf and he has the genes of a Tausug warrior, but he is also afraid to die," Abadia said.

Gag Palace gabster, asks Biazon

(From page A1)

chief, yesterday criticized presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao for giving news briefings on military operations.

He said Tiglao should just leave the talking to Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan.

"I think Secretary Tiglao should stop making these tactical announcements. I think the military hierarchy must be the one to make the announcements because much of the announcements of Tiglao are sometimes very much opinionated and not based on facts or on a clear understanding of what he is talking about," Biazon said.

He was reacting to Tiglao's statement the other day where the latter confirmed that the Abu Sayyaf had apparently slipped through a military cordon in the Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi area. Tiglao had described the incident as a "disappointing development."

But Tiglao said he was only reiterating what the military had told Malacañang and that the information he gave to the Malacañang Press Corps had the go-signal of the AFP.

"Everything tactical was cleared with AFP Chief of Staff (Gen. Diomedio Villanueva) and Adan," Tiglao said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier imposed a news blackout on the Palawan hostage crisis, saying this was for the good of the 20 hostages.

Under the news blackout policy, AFP spokesperson Adan was designated the single resource person for the military.

The news blackout also involved the President's appeals to members of media not to divulge the background of the hostages, not to go to the areas of operations and not to give print space and air time to the Abu Sayyaf.

Earlier this week, Malacañang met with editors of various media organizations in a bid to gather support for the news blackout.

But yesterday morning, Radio Mindanao Network aired an interview with Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Ahmad Salayuddin, alias Abu Sabaya, through the latter's satellite telephone.

Sabaya had claimed that government troops opened fire on the Abu Sayyaf and the hostages. One of the female hostages was also put on air and she called on the military to stop the offensive. As the interview was being conducted, the sound of gunfire was ringing in the background.

Tiglao considered the interview a "breach" in the news blackout policy and said Malacañang called up RMN officials.

"I talked to (RMN) and their explanation was that they thought that it was an emergency situation, that they even heard the sound of gunfire and this bandit leader kept on demanding that he be put on air," Tiglao said.

"We talked to the radio station and again appealed to their sense of patriotism. (We asked) if they could hold any obvious appeal of this bandit group to use the media for its own purposes," he added.

Biazon said RMN officials should review the kind of news they are getting from the Abu Sayyaf.

"If I'm the one doing the interview, I'll examine what it is that they are telling me," he said.

In Zamboanga City, the military's Southern Command (Southcom) was irked by a GMA Network news video showing military helicopters unloading soldiers wounded in yesterday's clash between the military and Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

Southcom officials were caught flat-footed after the one-and-a-half minute video was shown on "GMA News Live" at 2 p.m.

GMA reporter Susan Enriquez, who was part of the team that took the footage, was asked by the officials why GMA showed the video when there was supposed to be a news blackout.

The officials, Enriquez said, were worried that showing a video of soldiers killed and wounded during the initial stage of the encounter with the Abu Sayyaf gave the impression that the military was losing the battle.

But Enriquez told Col. Jose Mendoza and Maj. Danilo Cervando that she was just showing "reality."

"In any encounter, people are wounded, people are killed," she said she told them.

Cervando, she said, told her that the video was not pleasant because it seemed to show that the soldiers were losing to the enemy. Enriquez had countered that that was not what the footage implied.

The officials then requested if she could at least not show the video again, specially during a major newscast. Mendoza also called up the GMA newsdesk in Manila to make a similar request.

Enriquez said she told the officials that it was up to the GMA management if they wanted to show the footage again or not.

GMA ran Enriquez's report and the footage during its primetime newscast "Saksi."

Tiglao meanwhile said that media had been "helpful" and "cooperative" in the news blackout "despite some breaches in the agreement."

"We hope that as the situation drags on, even if the situation does not improve, the media (will) understand the situation," Tiglao said.

A poll conducted on the television show "Alas Singko y Media" showed that 73 percent of the 1,911 telephone callers supported the government's news blackout. *With a report from Mylene Francisco*

Ermenegildo Zegna
available

DENNIS SABANGAN

ONE life too many has been lost during an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan.

Hostages in camouflage make soldiers' task tough

THE ABU Sayyaf has reportedly forced its hostages to wear camouflage uniforms, making them not only indistinguishable from their captors but also susceptible to "friendly fire."

Military operating units and their ground commanders are thus under orders to exercise the best of their tactical judgment during firefights with the Abu Sayyaf, said Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson of the Armed Forces.

"We don't want the hostages hurt. We have to be very careful," Adan said. "We are not using artillery for this kind of encounter to make sure we hit only the terrorists."

Adan also said the mountainous terrain, with its thick tropical vegetation, was hampering the search and rescue operation.

"The men on the ground, the commander, the platoon leader, would have to judge where to fire if they need to fire, and where to rush to fulfill their principal mission, which is to rescue the hostages" he said.

"We have many considerations—the terrain, the mountains, the weather," he said, adding that the military was rushing more troops to the site in an attempt to cordon off the area northeast of Mount Sinangkapan in Basilan.

"There is too much vegetation. The visibility is bad. 15 meters away, you can't see anything, so we have to be careful," he said.

However, the same rough terrain will also work against the kidnappers, Adan said, remarking that it would be hard for them to find enough food and water.

He said this would likely force the kidnappers to descend from the more thickly forested areas to the trails, which the military was cordoning off.

"We don't think the Abu Sayyaf will stay there for long," he said.

Adan stressed that the rescue of the hostages and the neutralization of the Abu Sayyaf were "equally important" missions.

"We have to destroy them so they cannot repeat their sickening deeds," he said. *Carlito Pablo and Agence France Presse*

US warplanes leave

By Tonette Orejas
and Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Dispelling suspicions of US military intervention in the latest hostage crisis, seven aircraft of the US Marines flew back to Japan yesterday, four days after these and five other planes were sighted over Palawan where Abu Sayyaf bandits had abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos.

The seven aircraft had been stationed here since late April for joint RP-US exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement.

The planes left the Clark International Airport starting at 7 a.m., according to Elmer Cato, spokesman of the Presidential Commission on the VFA (VFACom).

The 12 aircraft had been seen hovering over Puerto Princesa City in Palawan since Sunday after returning from engagements in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, Cato said.

But he stressed that the aircraft engaged in aerial refueling exercises, and did not assist in pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

The departure of the seven aircraft came a day after the opening of the 11-day Carat 2001, the fourth Philippine-US Navy fleet-Marine exercise, in Zambales.

Capt. Gary Erickson, the commander of the US contingent in the ongoing Cooperation Afloat Readiness Training (Carat) exercises, stressed the importance of the naval exercise in building regional cooperation amid increasing regional security threats.

But like other officials of both governments, he emphasized that the presence of US ships and crews in the country has nothing to do with the abduction of the three Americans.

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople also asked the media to play down reports that the US was going to provide the country direct military assistance.

"Let us avoid sensationalism. For example, we should not confuse the joint military exercises between the Philippines and the United States with the Abu Sayyaf operations," he said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate panel on national security and defense, also said the presence of US forces here was mere "coincidence."

But Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada welcomed American intelligence assistance and military hardware in the fight against Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, saying the fight against terrorism is an international concern.

Two US destroyers—the USS Curts and the USS Wadsworth—and the landing ship USS Rushmore arrived here Thursday with 1,200 US troops who will join 1,175 Philippine Navy personnel in exercises to be held in San Antonio and Subic towns in Zambales and in Ternate, Cavite.

Ople, chair of the Senate panel on foreign relations, said the Philippine government should take pride in showing that it can address its security problems without the help of the United States.

"Every self-respecting state should demonstrate its capacity to deal with terrorism," he added. ***With reports from Armand Nocum; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

DENNIS SABANGAN

WALKING wounded in the streets of Lamitan, Basilan after an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Troops, Abu . . .

(From page A1)

fighters led by no less than Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadafy Janjalani.

"Our troops breached the defense perimeter of the temporary base (that the Abu Sayyaf) established," he said at his mid-afternoon briefing.

Adan said the Abu Sayyaf was believed to have suffered "several casualties," as the fighting that started at 7 a.m. raged until noon.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the military offensives would continue despite an appeal aired by one of the hostages, supposedly Teresa Ganzon, that these be stopped.

"This government cannot and will not give in to the demands of this bandit group," Tiglao told reporters. "(We) will not give in to their demand for a stop in the military operations or to their demand for ransom payments."

The supposed Ganzon had asked for a stop to the military offensives in an interview aired by radio dzXL yesterday morning, as gunfire sounded in the background.

Adan said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva had flown to Basilan from the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City to supervise the operations.

He said no signs of the hostages were found at the clash site.

Adan also said the AFP was in close contact with the hostages' families, who were "leaving it to the government to do what needs to be done."

"All we can ask them at this time is to pray that nothing bad will befall their loved ones," he said.

Adan declared that the military operating units would not let go now that contact with the Abu Sayyaf had been established.

"We don't want (the bandits) to escape. We will finish them once and for all," he said, adding:

"Our objective is to maintain contact while theirs is to escape."

2 clashes

Sources said there were two clashes—-one in Barangay Bohe Bessey, and the other at the Sampinit Complex in Sumisip town, site of the Abu Sayyaf's Camp Al Medina.

Sumisip, a known stronghold of bandit chieftain Khadafy Janjalani, is some 40 kilometers from Tuburan, the territory of one of the group's leaders, Isnilon Hapilon.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said the bandits had no other place to go but Sampinit Complex.

But according to Akbar, the complex is a forested area, which would make it difficult for military helicopters to sight the bandits.

Tuburan Mayor Dorie Kalahal said some 1,000 families had left their homes in Barangays Bohe Bessey, Pagengan, Semut, Canas and Upper Sinangakapan because of the ground shelling and the bombs dropped by MG-520 attack helicopters.

Kalahal said the evacuees had fled to Lamitan town, a two-hour ride away from Tuburan, and other barangays not affected by the military operations.

Hadja Yusha of Pagengan said they were forced to flee because of the bombings.

Hadji Jariya of Canas said they were terrified of soldiers and gunfire.

Another evacuee, Hadji Halil Sanan, said all they could take with them were clothing and cassava and bananas.

Abdullah Isah, who claimed to be a member of the militia civilian volunteer organization, said he and his wife Mila were injured when a 105 cannon hit their house in Barangay Sermot, Tuburan, early yesterday.

The Isahs were taken to Zamboanga City for treatment for burns.

Abdullah said his children were in the custody of the military in Basilan.

The bandits and their hostages supposedly arrived in a 70-passenger fishing boat named Victory Venture Jun 2 Fishing Corp., which was recovered in Barangay Canas around 7 a.m. yesterday.

Minjalul Salih, a coconut farmer of Canas, told the INQUIRER that about 50 fully armed men arrived in their village Thursday night.

According to some of the residents, the Abu Sayyaf's hostages were made to wear long dresses and headdresses, apparently to make identification difficult.

In a phone interview yesterday morning with Radyo Agong based in Zamboanga City, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya confirmed the clash with government troops.

Sabaya said the hostages were taking a bath in a river when the clash occurred.

He said his group now had 30 hostages, with the addition of 10 fishermen taken while on the way to Basilan from the Dos Palmas resort.

Speaking in Filipino, Sabaya said the President might have thought that she had intimidated his group. He said they would continue to take more hostages even if the number reached a thousand.

It was during this interview that the supposed hostage Ganzon made an appeal to the government to suspend the military operations.

Sabaya also went on the air over Radio Mindanao Network and claimed that two of the hostages, whom he did not name, had been killed.

Adan, however, said the military was still checking this information.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front said it was unthinkable for its forces in Basilan and other parts of Western Mindanao to extend help to the Abu Sayyaf.

No help from MILF

"Our position was very clear from the beginning, and that remains to date. We condemn the activities of the Abu Sayyaf because these are against the teaching of the Koran," said MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

Kabalu, however, did not discount the possibility that MILF guerrillas in Basilan could have engaged the pursuing government troops in a gun battle.

"It is possible that the military encroached into the MILF line of defense, and so our forces there were forced to fire back," he said. "But their action against the military is in defense of their territory. It does not mean they are helping the Abu Sayyaf."

Reinforcements

Adan said General Villanueva had ordered that more forces and military hardware, particularly aircraft, be brought into Basilan as well as Sulu.

Before yesterday's clash, there were four Army battalions scouring Basilan.

Malacañang also announced that a "military intermediary" had been appointed to establish a line of communication with the Abu Sayyaf and discuss the release of the hostages.

"This intermediary is known to the Abu Sayyaf, and if they would want to talk about releasing the hostages or laying down their arms, they could talk to this military intermediary," Tiglao said, adding:

"His only role is to talk to the Abu Sayyaf, if they'd be willing to talk or release their hostages. No ransom payment or other concessions will be given."

Tiglao refused to identify the intermediary, who, he said, established contact with "representatives" of the Abu Sayyaf "two days ago."

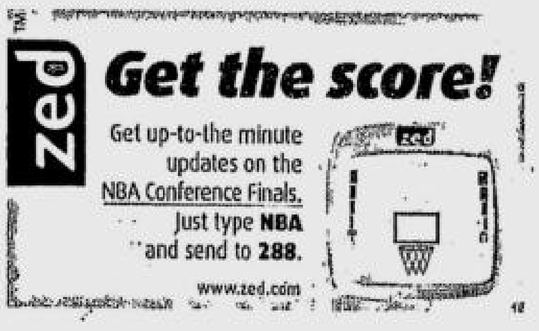
Asked when the intermediary would report to Malacañang, he said: "Any time, or as soon as there is news."

Agence France Presse quoted Tiglao as saying that the government was also in close contact with the US government, which, he said, was backing Manila's assault on the Abu Sayyaf.

"We are very sorry about this, but military operations cannot be stopped or even suspended," he said. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Allan A. Nawal Alex Young, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Agence France Presse***

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor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Karate tilt at Philsports today

THE SECOND National Karate-do Club Championships organized by the Philippine Karate-do Federation will fire off starting at 8 a.m. today at the Philsports in Pasig. Featured in the event which is open to the public and all karate enthusiasts, are team competitions in kata (forms) and kumite (sparring). Tournament director Aylwin Suva said an intermission will feature the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Mohan kumite (karate exhibition) competition among participating clubs.

NBA prefers Lakers-76ers finals–Allen

MILWAUKEE—Stopping just short of alleging an outright anti-Bucks conspiracy, Ray Allen said the NBA would prefer to see the Philadelphia 76ers face the Los Angeles Lakers in the finals.

ALLEN

"I think there's no question about that. The league, as a marketing machine, the bottom line is about making money," Allen said Thursday. "It behooves everybody for the league to make more money, and the league knows that Philadelphia is going to make more money with LA than we would with LA."

Coming off a crushing one-point Game 5 loss in which two flagrant fouls and a technical foul cost the Bucks dearly, Milwaukee now faces a must-win situation in Game 6 Friday night (Saturday morning in Manila).

The 76ers lead the best-of-seven series 3-2, with the winner moving on to face the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals beginning next Wednesday.

The Bucks have complained about the officiating since Game 4, when they felt Glenn Robinson was fouled on a crucial possession late in the fourth quarter that turned into a breakaway lay-up for the 76ers.

In Game 5, Sam Cassell's technical foul and flagrant fouls on Robinson and Tim Thomas resulted in a five-point possession and two four-point possessions for Philadelphia, and the Bucks admitted that those three mistakes cost them the game.

But aside from what they felt was the questionable nature of those calls, the Bucks also had a problem with several other whistles - touch fouls on Cassell and Ervin Johnson early in the game and a moving screen call on Jason Caffey late in the fourth quarter.

Cassell's complaining began in the first quarter when he pump-faked Allen Iverson off his feet and Iverson whacked him hard on the arm. No foul was called, even though the play happened directly in front of referee Ronnie Nunn.

"Nine times out of 10 when you have a referee you know there's no biases," Allen said. "But in the back of everybody's minds it's like Philadelphia and the MVP needs to play in the finals.

"I used to always think the series were fixed when I was in high school, then when I got to the NBA I said there's no way they could be fixed. But even last year against Indiana in Game 5 (of Milwaukee's first-round series) it seemed like everything went against us," Allen said.

All-Star squad

NEW YORK—MVP Allen Iverson of Philadelphia and San Antonio's Tim Duncan head the NBA's all-star team chosen by a 124-member panel of writers and broadcasters.

Iverson, who led the balloting with 612 points, and Duncan, who finished four points back, were joined on the first team by Chris Webber of Sacramento, Shaquille O'Neal of Los Angeles and Jason Kidd of Arizona. *AP*

PBA today

(People's Center Balanga, Bataan)
4 p.m.—Red Bull vs Alaska

SPORTSWATCH

Tiger trails by 2 in Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio—It was too early for Tiger Woods to start worrying, or for Chris Smith to begin celebrating. Through 10 holes Thursday, though, Woods was trailing the unlikely early leader of the Memorial tournament by a whopping eight shots. Then came a brilliant stretch of holes that showed once again why Woods is the most feared player in golf. With two eagles and a pair of birdies in the final eight holes, Woods turned around a watery start to shoot a 4-under 68 and get within two shots of local favorite Smith and Scott Verplank after one round of the Memorial. Trying to accomplish what even he has yet to do as a pro—win the same tournament three years in a row—Woods shot a 30 on the back nine to leapfrog much of the field and move into contention. He was in a cluster of players two shots behind the opening 66 posted early by Smith and matched late by Verplank. *AP*

Delasin, Rosales way behind

THE BIG numbers hit Dorothy Delasin and Jenny Rosales early in their respective rounds as the two Filipino campaigners fell far behind the lead pack in the first round of the US Women's Open golf championship in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Delasin took a double bogey on her second hole on the way to a 75 that put her in a tie for 80th place at the par-70 Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club. Rosales played even worse, losing six strokes in a three-hole stretch from the fourth and limped home with a 77 to be in a big group at 107th that also included teen wonder Morgan Pressel. Cindy Figg-Currier and AJ Eathorne showed the way after similar 67s, one ahead of Juli Inkster, Mi Hyun Kim and Jill McGill. *Jong Arcano*

Touring Car tilt resumes at Subic

THE PHILIPPINE National Touring Car Championships resume this weekend in Subic with Caltex-Eclipse-Red Horse-Team Tom's drivers Jody Coseteng and Jomari Yllana hoping to duplicate their impressive showing in the previous leg in Batangas last month. Coseteng topped the fourth round, while Yllana dominated the third round held last April 29 to move in strong contention for the overall title behind surprise leaders Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend and Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA. "It's still anybody's race. But we have better chances now than in the previous four rounds," said Coseteng, who bagged the overall title last year. Coseteng is running third overall with 35 points, only seven points behind Pazcoguin and one point behind Ramirez based on the 15-12-10-8-6 scoring system. He was disqualified in the first round held in Subic last April.

Go smashes drag racing record

TEAM Autoplus Sportzentrum's Raymond Go shattered his previous national record of 10.869 seconds with another spectacular quarter-mile blast of 10.672 seconds recently in the 5th Battle by the Bay Superdrags Championship at the Port City, Manila Harbour Centre. In the event organized by the Philippine Drag Racing Familysport (PDRF), Go also grabbed the Quick 8 heads-up class championship from six 11-second quarter-mile entries Mato Tan (11.072), Clark V8 hot rodder Ken Kepner (11.285), Francisco Blanco (11.408), Ojie Mamuric (11.456), Dondi Montecillo (11.85), Ricky Go (11.95) and 12.081-second qualifier Dominic Bon. Matonetics' Tan also ran a personal best of 10.83 seconds. Kepner's teammates John Rizya and Rob Hyde failed to qualify in the Quick 8. The PDRF Superdrags, which was supported by Landtrade Properties, Nodalo's Headers & Mufflers, Goodyear Tires, C.A.Roque Machine Shop and Outlast Battery, saw 73 cars in competition.

Pat Day notches 8,000th victory

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—Pat Day became the third jockey to reach 8,000 wins by guiding Camden Park to a one-length victory on the turf in Thursday's sixth race at Churchill Downs. The 47-year-old Day trails only Laffit Pincay Jr. (9,147) and Bill Shoemaker (8,833). Thursday's win was Day's 2,095th at Churchill and his meet-leading 46th this spring. The Hall of Fame jockey reached the mark with the fourth of six scheduled mounts on Thursday's card. *AP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Banahaw Blues 2. Go Johnny Go 3. Magara 4. Ariana's Pride
Race 2—1. Friendly Lover 2. Baby Maxxine 3. Shuttle's Rianne 4. Magic Fingers
Race 3—1. Rindo Maker 2. Winning Prize 3. Pen Tristram 4. Silver Dollar
Race 4—1. Petitioner 2. Eagle Song 3. Kitty Bang Bang 4. Gold Marlin 5. Rosalinda
Race 5—1. Free Time 2. Freshman 3. Leading Light 4. Battle Tested
Race 6—1. Shuttle's Best 2. Boss Lino 3. Lucky Gambit 4. Tour de Force 5. Bethsie
Race 7—1. Holy King 2. Free Bee
Race 8—1. Be Quiet 2. Brazen Truth 3. Absolute Power 4. En Carta 5. Man of the Hour
Race 9—1. Diligence 2. Nuts Again 3. Something Silver 4. Corporate Law
Race 10—1. Timeless Beauty 2. He's Splendid 3. Talk to Patsy 4. Hurry King 5. Samahan
Race 11—1. Materiales Fuertes 2. Speed Goddess 3. Gemstone 4. Thunder Fire 5. Regimental Lass
Race 12—1. Johann Song 2. Zenie's Pride 3. Test Run 4. Maniaman
Race 13—1. Red Bells 2. Queen Storm 3. Mark's Treasure 4. Time Street Polo 5. Cherry Lane 6. Loose Cannon

PharmaQuick, GIV dispute semis slot

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Shark Energy	9	2
Ana Freezers	8	3
Welcoat Paints	7	4
GIV Soap	6	5
Group B		
PharmaQuick	7	5
Hapee	6	6
Montaña	4	8
Osaka	3	9
Ateneo-Pioneer	2	10

Games today: Makati Coliseum
10 a.m.—UE vs UP (women's)
12 noon—Adamson vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UE vs FEU (Fr. Martin's Cup)
4 p.m.—PharmaQuick vs GIV Soap

STANDOUTS Leo Avenido and Gerard Jones are torn between two loves as PharmaQuick meets GIV Soap in the PBL and FEU tackles UE in the Fr. Martin's Cup final today at the Makati Coliseum.

In a cruel twist of fate, FEU and PharmaQuick—which happen to be the duo's collegiate and commercial teams, respectively will play on the same day and the same venue.

The Tamaraws-Red Warriors encounter is set at 2 p.m., followed by the Pharmacists-Soap Makers playoff for the fourth and final semis slot.

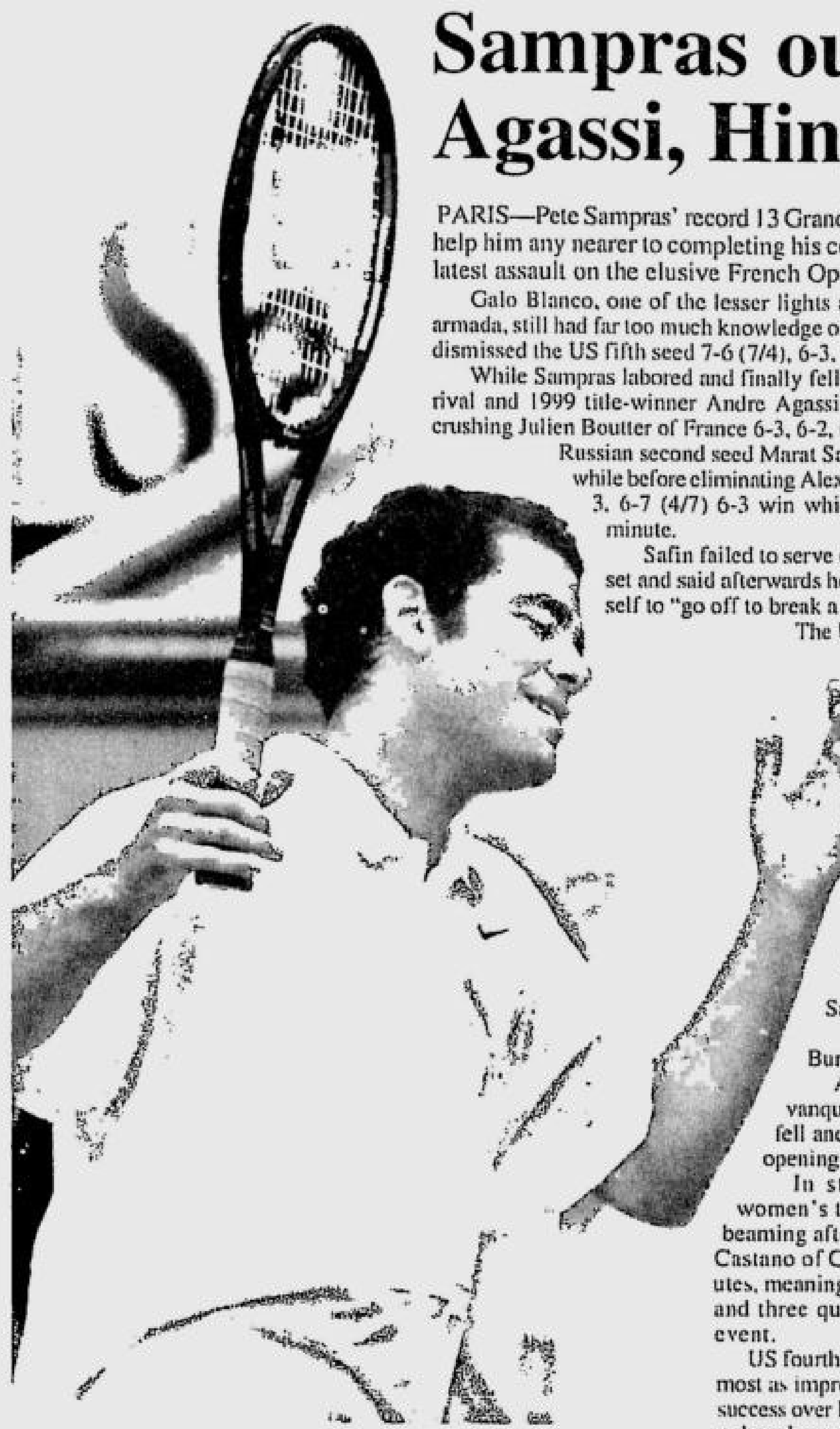
"We badly need Leo and Gerard, that's all I can say," said FEU coach Koy Banal.

PharmaQuick also needs the fiery plays of Avenido to complete the cast of its deadly 'three-threat.' The other members are high-scoring Bruce Dacia and Omanzie Rodriguez. The 6-foot-4 Jones is an able reliever for Rodriguez.

The winner between PharmaQuick and GIV will meet leader Shark Energy Drink (9-2) in the crossover semis. Shark enjoys a twice-to-beat privilege.

Dennis U. Eroa

Sampras ousted; Agassi, Hingis win


SAMPRAS: 'It's very frustrating.' REUTERS

PARIS—Pete Sampras' record 13 Grand Slam singles titles couldn't help him any nearer to completing his collection Thursday after his latest assault on the elusive French Open crown slipped away.

Galo Blanco, one of the lesser lights among the Spanish claycourt armada, still had far too much knowledge of how to play the surface as he dismissed the US fifth seed 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-2 in 2 hours and 5 minutes.

While Sampras labored and finally fell by the wayside his long-time rival and 1999 title-winner Andre Agassi cantered into the last 32 by crushing Julien Boutter of France 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.

Russian second seed Marat Safin teetered on the brink for a while before eliminating Alex Calatrava of Spain 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (4/7) 6-3 win which took him 3 hours and 28 minute.

Safin failed to serve out for the match in the fourth set and said afterwards he was angry enough with himself to "go off to break a few racquets."

The US Open champion next plays Fabrice Santoro of France for a place in the last 16.

Sampras had earlier saved three match points in staving off a first-round disaster against French qualifier Cedric Kauffmann—but there was to be no second Houdini-act--and the drooped shoulders were a telltale sign long before he drove into the net to bow out.

"It's very frustrating," said Sampras.

The Spaniard now faces Lars Burgsmuller of Germany

Agassi expressed sympathy for vanquished opponent Boutter, who fell and hurt his left ankle late in the opening set.

In stark contrast to Sampras, women's top seed Martina Hingis was beaming after she rocketed past Catalina Castano of Colombia 6-1, 6-0 in 42 minutes, meaning she has spent barely an hour and three quarters on court so far in the event.

US fourth seed Jennifer Capriati was almost as impressive as she scored a 6-2, 6-1 success over Italy's Tathiana Garbin to book a showdown with Croatian qualifier Mirjana Lucic.

POC needs to liquidate P10 million

By June Navarro

AS FAR as unsettled accounts with the government are concerned, the Philippine Olympic Committee is in a deeper bind than majority of the national sports associations which are moving heaven and earth to solve their liquidation woes.

This surfaced as the Philippine Sports Commission divulged yesterday that the POC owes the government P10 million worth of receipts disbursed during the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games.

PSC commissioner Richie Garcia said the unsettled accounts came from the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation and which were supposed to go to the National Sports Development Fund.

Instead, the account was channeled to the Asian Games campaign with the windfall budget going to the POC, then headed by presidential daughter, Cristy Ramos.

"Similar to the deadline of the NSAs, the PSC will give the POC until June 15 to liquidate the amount," said Garcia.

"Otherwise, the Office of the Solicitor General will take over and impose legal sanctions on the POC," he added.

Meanwhile, athletics heads the list of 27 NSAs which have yet to settle the financial assistance they received from the PSC.

The Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association has an outstanding balance of P3,263,336, unaccounted for since July 1999 up to the Thailand Open last month.

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NBA Action at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: 2001 French Open - Day 6 Elimination at 5 p.m. (r - tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on SkyCable 17

Derby finals tonight

WITH five victories each after two days of action, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan) and Tony Tan (Fatman Swing) lead today's finalists in the Mandaluyong Coliseum International 9-Cock Derby beginning at 6 p.m.

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Still very much in contention, with four points apiece, are Ucap president Butch Macasaet (AA BJ Greenwood), lawyer Rudy Salud (Winning Time DVH), Madlambayan brothers (Clear Cut JLC GP) and Val Adriano (Karerista). Tony Litonjua (Starwars), Rey Dodoso (OPMI Killer Eagle II) and Pete Rodriguez (Roadmaster Balbina) have identical 3.5 points.

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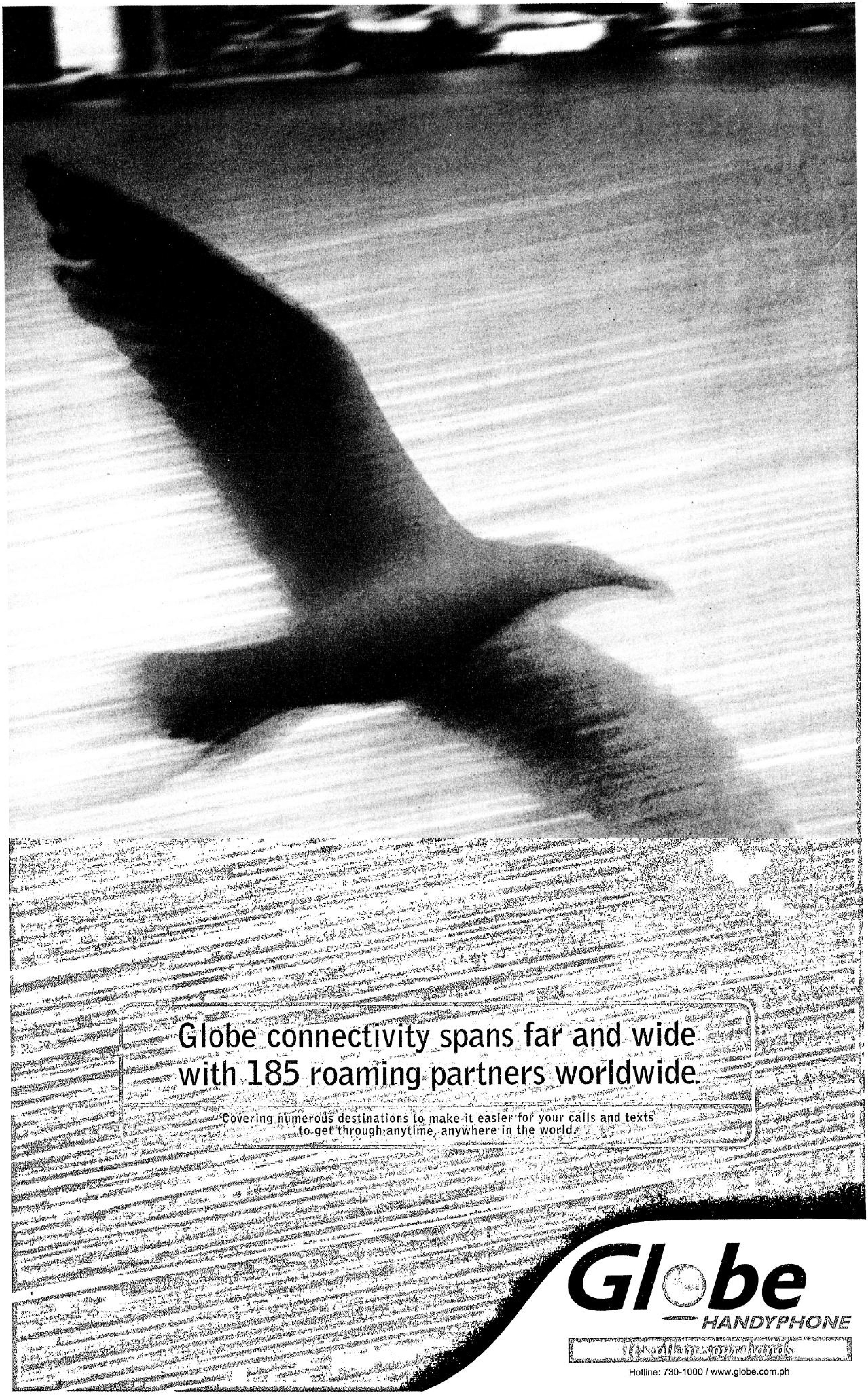

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Malonzo to sue Asistio
■ Losers accuse election officers of corruption
A20

Senators: No law says Berroya is to blame

BY ARMAND NOCUM

SENATORS yesterday vowed to strengthen laws on command responsibility as they admitted that present laws are not enough to pin down police Supt. Reynaldo Berroya for the killing of two innocent civilians in a bungled operation against kidnappers last month.

In a hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee, senators also hit Berroya's men in the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group for "panic firing" and said they should be educated

SENATORS/ A20

Japanese found floating in bay

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A JAPANESE with stab wounds was found floating in Manila Bay yesterday morning.

Investigators from the Western Police District have yet to identify the killers of Keiichi Wada, 40, of Ashikaga City, Tochigi Prefecture.

Wada's body was found near the seawall across the Diamond Hotel along Roxas Boulevard about 8:30 a.m., police said.

His body bore four stab wounds in the chest and abrasions on the neck.

Police found a kitchen knife still stuck in the chest of the Japanese.

Investigators SPO3 Athos de Quiros and SPO3 Ernesto Jose of the WPD Homicide Section said Wada was wearing a beige and blue shirt and olive green shorts and was barefooted when he was discovered.

De Quiros said the foreigner had been dead for at least six hours.

Police found on the body a wal-

JAPANESE/ A20

Francis M out on bail

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

A DEFIANT Francis Magalona was released from prison on Thursday after he posted a P60,000 bail before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court even as he vowed to file countercharges against the policemen who arrested him for allegedly smoking marijuana.

Judge Diosdado Peralta of Branch 95 set the rap artist and television host free two days after members of the Central Police District caught Magalona and a companion, Alfredo de los Reyes, 31, allegedly in the act of smoking pot inside a parked car in New Manila.

"I will do everything to clear my name," Magalona, 36, declared after he posted bail. "I am innocent of the charges."

He accused arresting officers PO3 James Bustinera and PO1 Miguel Cordero of physically attacking him, and he pledged not to stop until the two policemen have an

FRANCIS/ A20

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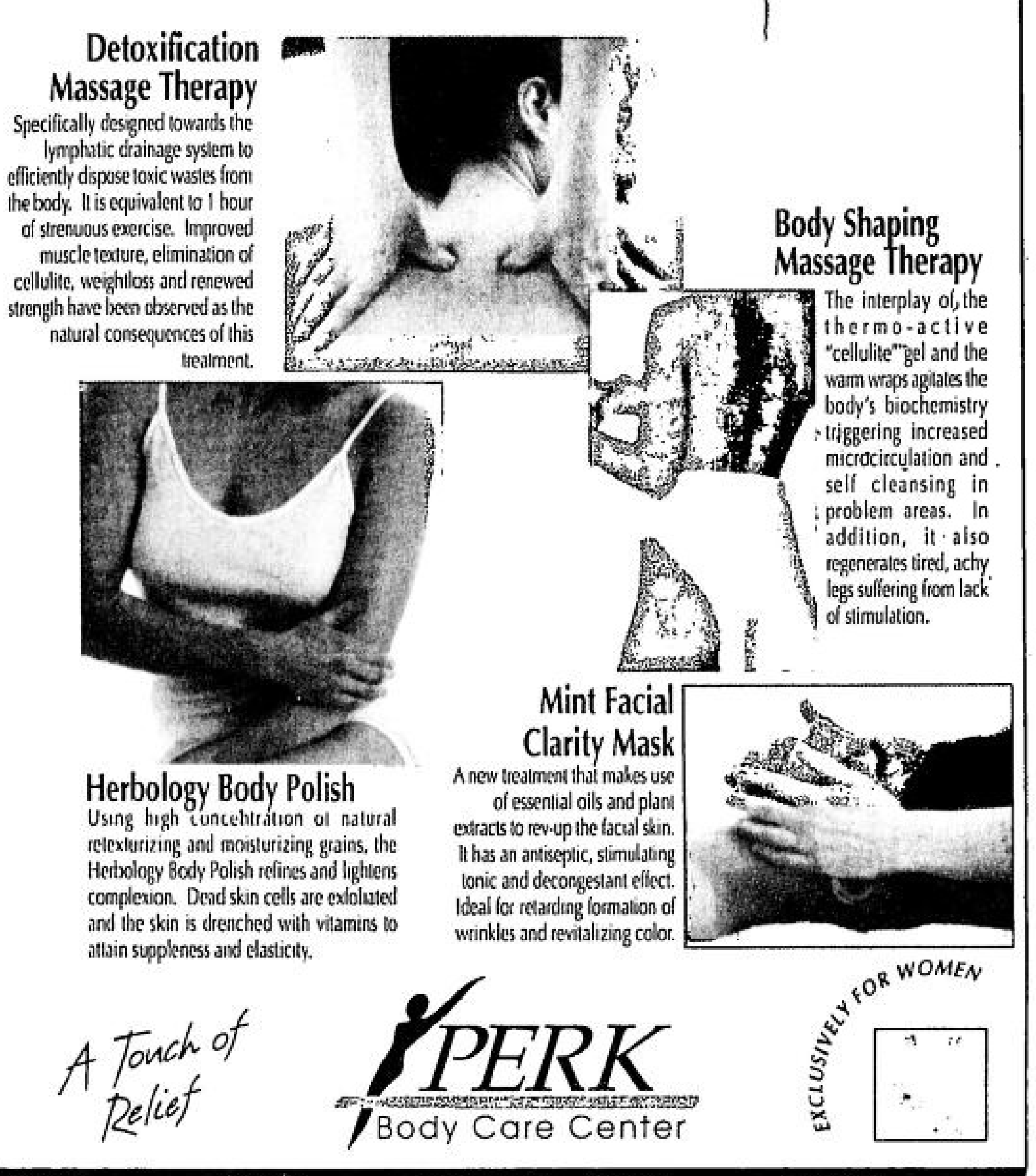

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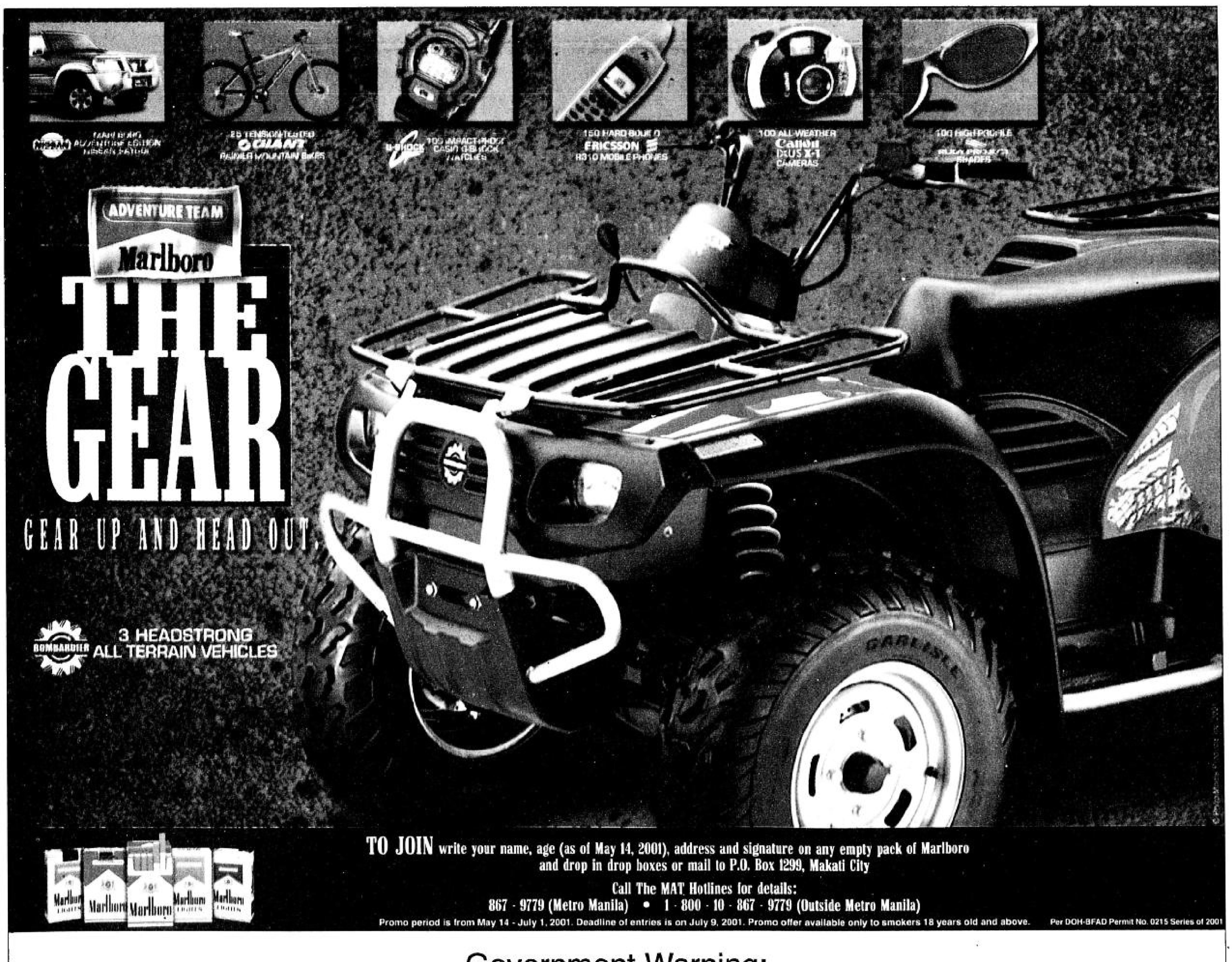
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Third cop killing suspect arrested

BY AGNES E. DONATO

PASIG police on Thursday night arrested the suspected gunman in the killing of a Marikina policeman during a jeepney robbery last Monday afternoon.

The arrest of Randy Galla, 21, in his neighborhood in Barangay San Isidro in Antipolo City brought to three the number of arrested suspects in the jeepney holdup on Marcos Highway in Santolan, Pasig about 1:30 p.m. Monday.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, director of the Eastern Police District, and Pasig police chief John Sosito presented Galla to Deputy Director General Romeo Peña, chief of the National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO), and declared the slaying of PO3 Victor Santiago solved.

Insp. Rodante Arcigal, Pasig police follow-up division chief, said police were able to locate Galla after an informer claimed to have overheard him bragging about his killing of Santiago.

Santiago, a member of the Marikina police mobile division, was gassing up a police patrol car that he was using with another policeman when they noticed a passenger jeepney being held up by Galla and six companions.

Santiago chased the holdup men but was shot dead with a single bullet in the chest.

Arcigal said Galla was arrested while allegedly buying a shabu in a friend's house about 6 p.m. Thursday.

Two of Galla's cohorts, Eduardo Llamera and Vicente Rogales, were arrested during an earlier police operation. Galla evaded arrest, leaving in his haste the .38 caliber revolver that he allegedly used in shooting Santiago.

Charges of robbery with homicide and illegal possession of firearms were filed against the three suspects before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office.

Hospital denies negligence

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE PASAY City General Hospital yesterday denied reports that a tabloid reporter died because of the medical staff's negligence.

The death of Reynaldo Pulga, 53, a reporter of the tabloid Remate, had prompted the Reporters Organization of Pasay City to ask city Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad to investigate the PCGH medical staff and punish those who would be found guilty.

But Dr. Danilo Menorca, who trains resident doctors at the PCGH, denied the organization's charge. He said they had done all they could to save Pulga's life.

Menorca said Pulga underwent the necessary physical examination and laboratory analysis and was given medicines to lower blood pressure in the brain and body.

He said Pulga also underwent X-ray and electro-cardiogram tests to determine his heart condition. He said that based on their clinical observation, Pulga suffered from a fatal condition where the brain collapses due to pressure from a ruptured blood vessel.

Menorca described Pulga's death as sudden even after he admitted that the reporter agonized for four hours in the emergency room before dying.

James Catapusan, ROPC president, said he learned from witnesses that Pulga could still be alive today had PCGH doctors exercised due diligence in attending to the victim.

Records showed Pulga was taken to the hospital about 11 p.m. on May 25 after he fell unconscious inside the Pasay City Cockpit Arena on Libertad Street, just a stone's throw away from the PCGH. He died at 3 a.m.

Amor Virata, National Press Club of the Philippines director and a friend of Pulga, said she saw Pulga in pitiful condition in the hospital.

She noted the absence of a competent staff and the necessary facilities to treat Pulga's condition and she pleaded with a doctor to have Pulga transferred to another hospital.

"But the doctor refused to have the patient transferred to another hospital because he might die on the way," Virata said in Filipino "But he died in that hospital anyway."

The INQUIRER tried to contact the doctor concerned but she referred the matter to Menorca.

The INQUIRER also failed to contact Dr. Luz Abad, the PCGH director

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Malonzo to sue Asistio

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

RESULTS of the controversial elections in Caloocan City continue to hang in the balance as parties resorted to a fierce legal battle to determine the winners.

Lawyers of Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo are preparing criminal charges against Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio and his camp after they implicated him and other local officials in the fiasco that allegedly led to a massive disenfranchisement of voters on May 14.

The mayor said the charges—including a multimillion-peso libel suit—will be filed against his accusers once his own investigation is completed.

Malonzo's threat of a legal assault came after Pablo Casimina, Asistio's campaign manager, accused the mayor of deliberately delaying the elections.

Casimina claimed that City Hall officials led by treasurer Lourdes Jose intentionally made the distribution of election materials disorderly to cause the delay.

The Commission on Elections postponed Malonzo's proclamation pending the body's decision on Asistio's petition to declare an election failure.

The alleged disenfranchisement of voters formed the centerpiece of Asistio's petition.

Malonzo, however, maintained he did not cause the delay. He said that if he indeed intended to delay the elections, he would not have set up on election day three distribution centers at the main and north city halls and in Bagong Barrio.

But chaos still marred the distribution of election materials in both city halls.

Based on his own investigation, Malonzo said, teachers led by Dr. Elizabeth Manalo, district superintendent of the education department, should be blamed particularly for the unruly distribution at the trade center in front of the main city hall.

The center was supposed to accommodate only 900 polling precincts, Malonzo said.

Quoting police officials, Malonzo said about 3,000 people stormed the trade center as early as 1 a.m. on May 14 to get their materials.

"However efficient our system of distribution was, we could only do so much since people barged into the trade center," Malonzo said.

He said Manalo, whom he identified as an Asistio ally, instructed the teachers to go to the center as early as 1 a.m. on May 14 even though the distribution was actually set at 4 a.m.

"She wanted the teachers to be pissed off so they would blame me," Malonzo said.

Yesterday he asked the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to determine if it had authorized all those who went to the trade center to get election materials.

"If the DECS could not identify those who went to the distribution centers at the city hall, it better be ready."

He alleged that Asistio supporters could have been sent to the center to disrupt the distribution.

Manalo criticized the mayor for allegedly passing the blame on her and the teachers.

"Tell Malonzo that he should not blame me," she said. "It's his distribution system that's very disorganized." She admitted that the number of those who trooped to the distribution center at the main city hall could have reached 3,000.

This was possible if all three members of the board of election inspectors for each of the 900 precincts came to the venue on election day.

Senators: No law . . .

(From page A19)

on rules of engagement.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, vice chair of the blue ribbon panel, said that although he believes that Berroya could be held liable for the deaths of New World Hotel chief steward Fernando Lozada and family friend Marian Uson, 18, there is no well-defined law on command responsibility.

"We do not have a legal definition on what constitutes command responsibility," said Biazon, a former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. "Command responsibility can be interpreted in so many, many ways."

Biazon said "a commander is responsible for formulating policies that would prevent situations such as this and directives to implement such policies, and for issuing tactical orders to prevent such incidents."

"If you fail to ensure through the conduct of training that all the members of the command understood the meaning and direction (of the policy), then there is a failure somewhere in the exercise of your command," he said.

Biazon said he would revive a bill he filed in 1993 to have a "clearer definition of command responsibility in different levels of authority."

He said the proposed law would also apply to civilian organizations.

According to him, a "head of office will have to assume certain responsibilities for what his organization does in line with his assigned functions, or what it fails to do."

On May 17, Berroya's IG subordinates were going after kidnappers when they mistook Lozada's car for that of the suspects and tried to stop it on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Instead of stopping, Lozada stepped on the gas.

The policemen fired at the car, hitting Lozada, who was killed instantly, and Uson, who was declared dead on arrival at a hospital. Lozada's daughter was wounded.

Investigators said that the policemen fired at the car again even after it had stopped.

In a news briefing yesterday, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas F. Ople said he would also file a bill defining command responsibility as he cited the "unabated practice of summary executions and the involvement of police and army personnel in bungled operations."

"In applying the principle of command responsibility," Ople said, "the superiors must prove that they have taken conscientious measures to prevent such violations of human rights."

But National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco, who attended the Senate hearing, said Berroya might not be liable for the bungled operation because he was not the one who gave the order to fire.

Berroya had told senators that he was in Bulacan when the killing happened.

Senators attending the hearing also took the police to task for firing at the civilians even if they were unarmed and there was no "imminent danger."

Biazon advised the police to "undertake a massive orientation, familiarization and training to internalize the rules of engagement."

Losers accuse election officers of corruption

BY AGNES E. DONATO

THE TWO losing parties in the May 14 elections in Angono, Rizal accused the members of the Election Registration Board of the local Commission on Elections (Comelec) of tampering with election documents in favor of incumbent Mayor Gerardo Calderon.

Charges of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act were filed against Angono municipal election chair Rene Geton, education department district supervisor Nelia Paz, and Angono civil registry head Magdalena Caldero.

In a joint complaint, the representatives of the local Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and Lakas–NUCD claimed that the local Comelec officials conspired to make it appear that the ERB approved the application of at least 2,460 new voters and 221 applications for transfer of voters in the last elections.

They said this disenfranchised at least 10,000 voters who were identified with the opposition camps.

The complainants said Mayor Calderon of the Nationalist People's Coalition-Puwersa ng Masa (NPC-PnM) conspired with the three Comelec officials so that the new voters and transferees would be deemed legal voters.

The losing opposition camps, headed by Edgar Samson of the LDP and Allan Frayco of the Lakas-NUCD-PPC, also filed charges of election fraud against Calderon for allegedly using flying voters from Antipolo City, Malabon and even Bulacan.

The complainants also urged the court to annul the proclamation of Calderon and the councilors identified with him, to order the conduct of a special election and to declare as null and void the approval of the applications of 2,681 new voters.

Zialcita, Marquez vs Golez

NEWLY ELECTED Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita and Mayor-elect Joey P. Marquez of Parañaque City will join hands to press for the resignation of National Security Adviser Roilo Golez for the latter's "unethical conduct" during the May 14 elections.

Zialcita topped a field of 15 candidates, including Golez's son Rico, who contested the lone congressional seat in Parañaque.

Both Zialcita and Marquez accused the former congressman of "campaigning for his son using the resources of his national office" and "for violating the election code."

Marquez also hit Golez for "dereliction of duty." He said that while the Edsa III demonstrators were marching to Malacañang, Golez was busy doing house-to-house campaign for his son.

"Shouldn't Golez be doing his homework first," said the mayor, "which was to gather and analyze intelligence reports and help avert the bloody confrontation on Mendiola?"

He said Golez flouted the election code by indirectly campaigning for his son on the event of the May 14 elections when the Commission on Elections campaign ban was already in effect.

He also questioned Golez's loyalty to the ruling party, to which he switched at the height of the jueteng scandal implicating former President Estrada. He said Golez was seen endorsing a few of the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates although he is an administration official.

Zialcita and Marquez said they would separately file a resolution demanding the resignation of Golez as national security adviser.

Francis M out on bail

(From page A19)

swered for their abuses.

Magalona recounted that he and De los Reyes were on their way home when he decided to pull over at the intersection of Hemady and 4th streets in Barangay Mariana, New Manila so he could send a text message to his wife Pia.

He said that after sending the message, he continued driving until a police car blocked his way and ordered him and De los Reyes to alight from his vehicle.

He said that without even showing a warrant of arrest, Bustinera and Cordero handcuffed De los Reyes, prompting him to speed off.

"I got scared so I decided to speed off," he said. "But they ran after me and even bumped the rear of my car. When I heard gunshots, I got more scared so I decided to stop."

He said that when he alighted from his car, Bustinero choked him while Cordero hit him in the right side of the abdomen and in the right shoulder with the butt of an M-16 rifle.

Magalona said he sustained bruises.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, June 2, 2001
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 28:16-20, 30-31*
Gospel: *Jn 21:20-25*

Peter looked back and saw that the disciple Jesus loved was following as well, the one who had reclined close to Jesus at the supper and had asked him, "Lord, who is to betray you?" On seeing him Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain until I come, does that concern you? Follow me."

Because of this the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus had not said to Peter, "He will not die," but "suppose I want him to remain until I come."

It is this disciple who testifies about the things he has recorded here and we know that his testimony is true. But Jesus did many other things; if all were written down, the world itself would not hold the books recording them.

Commentary:

The invitation to discipleship is for life unto death. This is easier said than done. Peter's call to conversion had to go on. Later Christian tradition recalls Peter's attempt to fall away from the post-resurrection re-commissioning with the "Quo vadis, Domine?" (Where are you going, Lord?) incident outside the Roman walls at the Appian Way. Growth in discipleship is an ongoing call. And so, we can never rest content in past glories nor be curious about issues that do not matter. Constant mindfulness of what happens in us, is therefore, a perennial task for us till the Lord finally comes.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (PROPERTY)—Easement: legal and compulsory—The easement in the instant petition is both (1) an easement by grant or a voluntary easement, and (2) an easement by necessity or a legal easement. A legal easement is one mandated by law, constituted for public use or for private interest, and becomes a continuing property right. As a compulsory easement, it is inseparable from the estate to which it belongs, as provided for in Article 617 of the Civil Code. The essential requisites for an easement to be compulsory are: (1) the dominant easement is surrounded by other immovables and has no adequate outlet to a public highway; (2) proper indemnity has been paid; (3) the isolation was not due to acts of the proprietor of the dominant estate; (4) the right of way claimed is at a point least prejudicial to the servient estate; and (5) to the extent consistent with the foregoing rule, where the distance from the dominant estate to a public highway may be the shortest. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Villanueva v. Velasco, G.R. No. 130845, November 27, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Japanese found ...

(From page A19)

let containing a Japanese cash card in the name of Ryoko Ukay and a Cebu Pacific boarding pass dated May 24 in the name of K. Wada, from Manila to either Davao or Cebu. Police also found a woman's photograph in the victim's wallet. No cash was found, they said.

De Quiros theorized that the Japanese might have been strolling along the seawall Thursday night when he was robbed and killed.

2 slain in Tondo

By Alcuin Papa and Margarette Teodosio

TWO men were killed in two incidents in Tondo, Manila on Thursday.

Police identified the first victim as Rogelio Sevilla, 37, married and a resident of Balingasa Street, Balintawak, Quezon City.

Sevilla died at the Mary Johnston Hospital, also in Tondo, at about 11 p.m., police said.

Police were still looking for the two still unidentified suspects.

Sevilla was employed as a debt collector of the C.M. Recto branch of the First Savings Bank in Manila and usually collected money from vendors in Divisoria, police said.

According to SPO1 Edgardo Ko, Sevilla was at the corner of M.V. de Santos and Fulgeras streets in Tondo at about 3 p.m. when one of the two men shot him at close range with a handgun.

When Sevilla fell, the suspects took his bag containing a still undetermined amount of cash.

Police said they have not been able to come up with any witnesses.

The second shooting happened at 7:20 a.m.

Police said Arcadio Carandang, 23, was shot dead and Alberto Garcia, 21, was wounded. Both men were pedicab drivers and residents of Parola Compound, Tondo.

Both men were brought to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital where Carandang died while receiving treatment. Garcia is still undergoing treatment.

Investigators said the suspects, identified only as Itik, Dudut, Lando, Roger, Ober, and Resty, fetched Carandang from his house. All suspects are also residents of Parola Compound, police said.

SPO4 Rodolfo Rival of the WPD said Carandang and Garcia were selling shabu consigned to them by Itik.

A disagreement ensued during their short conversation, until Itik shot Carandang and Garcia, police said.

Police were still looking for the six suspects.

Drug suspect takes 9-year-old niece hostage

A TWO-HOUR hostage drama gripped Malabon City on Thursday when an alleged drug addict threatened to kill his 9-year-old niece.

Bonifacio Rubia, 30, was said to be high on drugs when he took hostage his niece in the latter's house on P. Concepcion Street, Barangay Tugatog at about 3 p.m., police said.

Rubia is facing charges of illegal detention before the Malabon Prosecutor's Office.

Police said Rubia had just participated in a shabu session when he barged into the house of his cousin, the girl's mother, said PO3 Ferdinand Espiritu.

Rubia told police later that someone was plotting to kill him on his way home.

He threatened to kill his niece by poking a broken fluorescent lamp at her neck, police said. He also threatened to smash the girl's head with a hammer.

After two hours of negotiation, he surrendered to members of the Tugatog police substation led by SPO3 Danilo Sagui. The girl was unharmed. ***Christian Esguerra, and Louie Jon Sanchez***

Boys' school will help QC residents, says official

THE PAREF-Northfield School for Boys that will be built on a three-hectare lot in Greenmeadows III, a property owned by Quezon City, will provide quality education for residents not only from the community but also from the neighboring subdivisions.

Northfield Executive director Pierangelo Alejo said in a statement that the school would assure nearby residents of a conveniently located private elementary and secondary school.

The south Quezon City quadrant, bounded by Edsa, Ortigas, E. Rodriguez and Santolan, includes the subdivisions of Acrópolis, Greenmeadows, Corinthian Gardens, White Plains, St. Ignatius, Blue Ridge and Valle Verde VI.

Alejo was reacting to reports that residents were against the construction of the PAREF-Northfield School.

He said PAREF-Northfield will also extend its educational services to a maximum of 200 deserving scholars from Quezon City public elementary schools, who will receive the same high school program given to the paying students. About 50 percent of the total high school population will be free, he said.

He stressed that the school "values and promotes deeper understanding and practice of the human virtues, family values and social concern."

He said Northfield has initiated a comprehensive study that will lead to a traffic management plan for the areas to be affected. He said Aparef-Northfield was able to acquire the use of the land through a memorandum of agreement with the Quezon City government signed on Feb. 14, 2001. Quezon City is the absolute owner of the 3.1-hectare open space donated by Ortigas and Company.

He said that after previous consultation with the Third Greenmeadows Homeowners Association Inc., the latter endorsed the plan of PAREF-Northfield to develop the open space as a "community park with a school."

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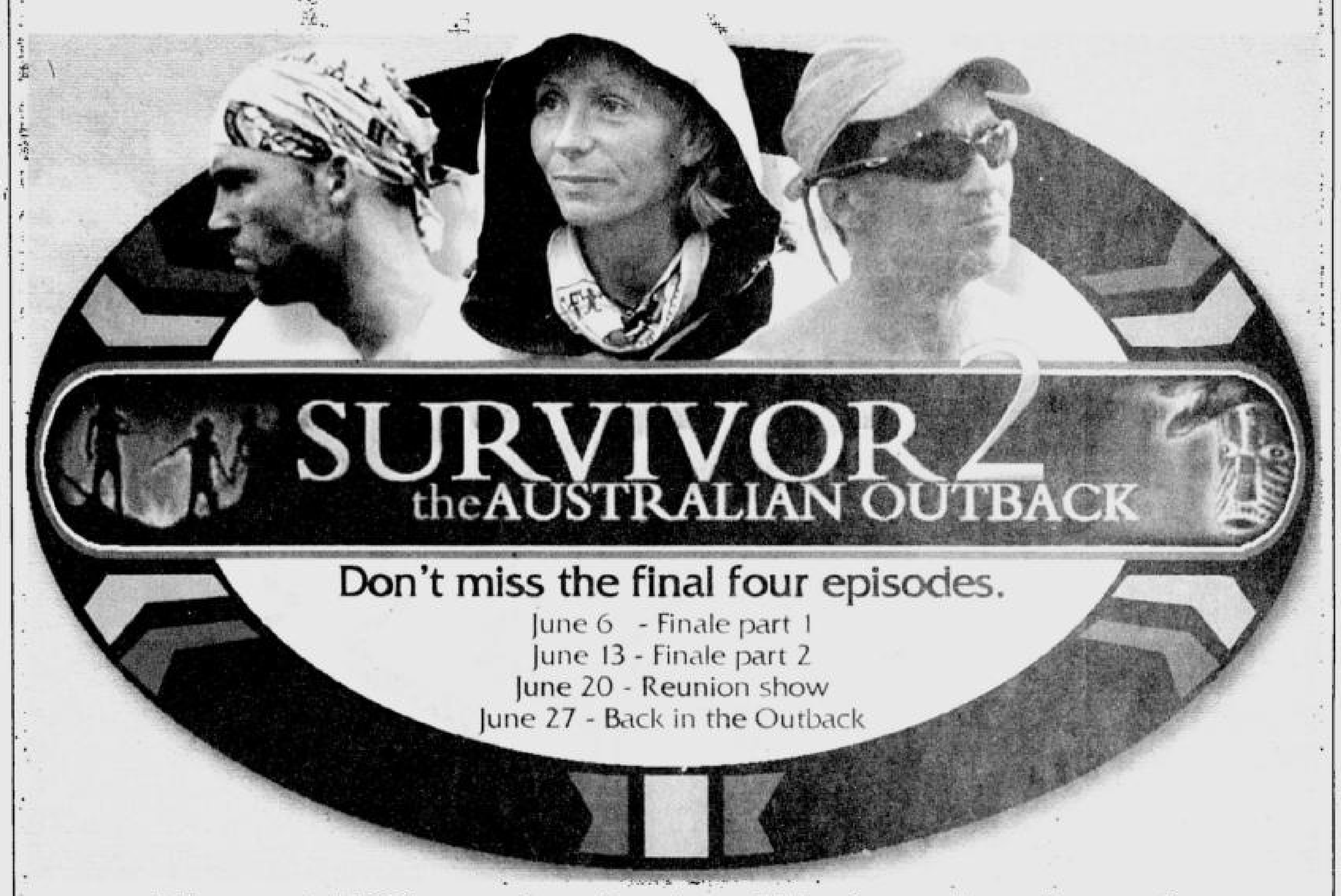

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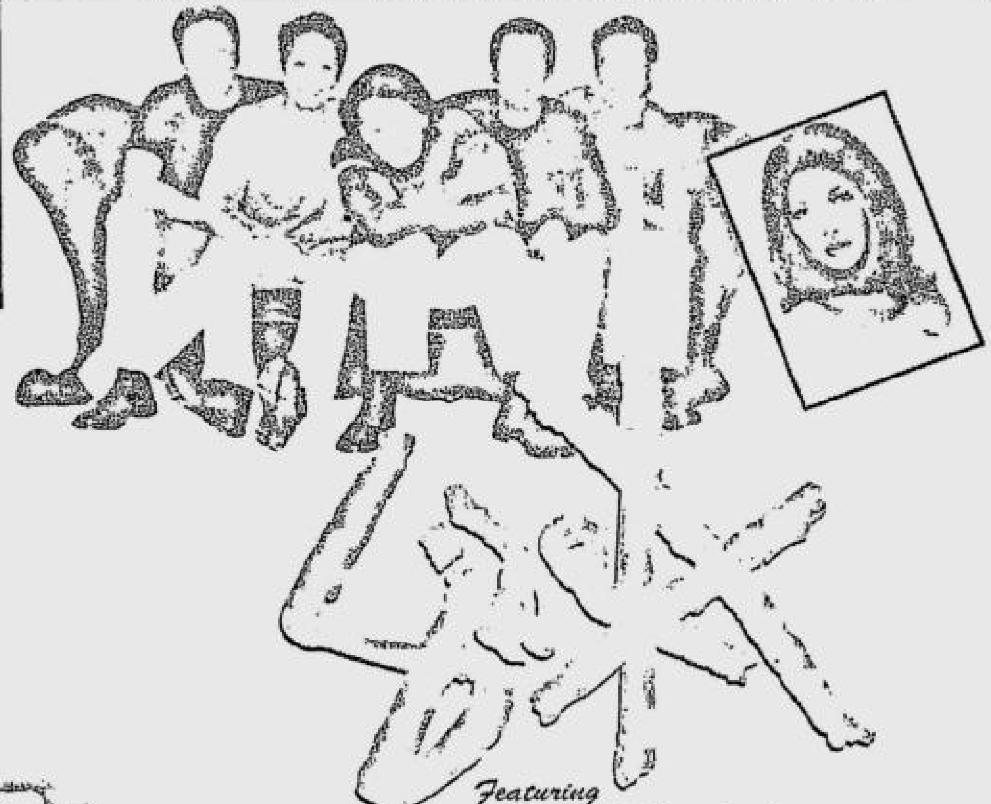

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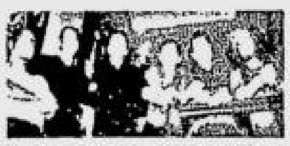

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Boy in stabbing

POLICE on Thursday arrested a 13-year-old boy who was allegedly involved in the stabbing of two men at the Villamor Air Base.

The boy, a resident of Malibay, Pasay City, was detained by police after barangay *tanod* Luis de Asis caught him during a rumble that led to the stabbing of Erwin Juego, 23, and Jessie Ilao, 19, at a basketball court in the air base.

The boy was with friends who were all in their 20s and 30s.

Police said the boy was responsible for the stabbing but the boy said the group of Juego and Ilao ganged up on one of his companions, who was forced to defend himself with a knife. ***Alcuin Papa, Allison Lopez, Margarette Teodosio***

Molester hunted

POLICE said they were looking for an alleged male homosexual who was accused of sexually molesting a 17-year-old boy for five years in Caloocan City.

Police said Benjamin Cinco, a resident of Horacio de la Costa, Caloocan, is facing charges of acts of lasciviousness and multiple counts of sexual abuse before the Caloocan City Prosecutor's Office.

The 17-year-old said the suspect abused him whenever they were left alone in their house from June 1995 to May 8, 2000. He said Cinco gave him P100 after every sexual abuse.

Police said the young man did not know he was being molested because of his alleged "mental problems."

It was only when the young man's mother discovered the alleged abuses that a complaint against Cinco was filed with the Women's and Children's Concerned Desk of the Caloocan Police.

Christian V. Esguerra

A life for a life

A NATIVE of Samar province was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Pasay City judge for killing a man he had found arrogant.

Eduardo Ragasa, 42, of Wawa 3, Little Baguio, Rosario, Cavite, was given the life sentence by Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Vicente Yap, who also ordered him to pay P150,000 in moral damages.

Ragasa's victim, Orlando Carrido, sustained several stab wounds in the chest and back.

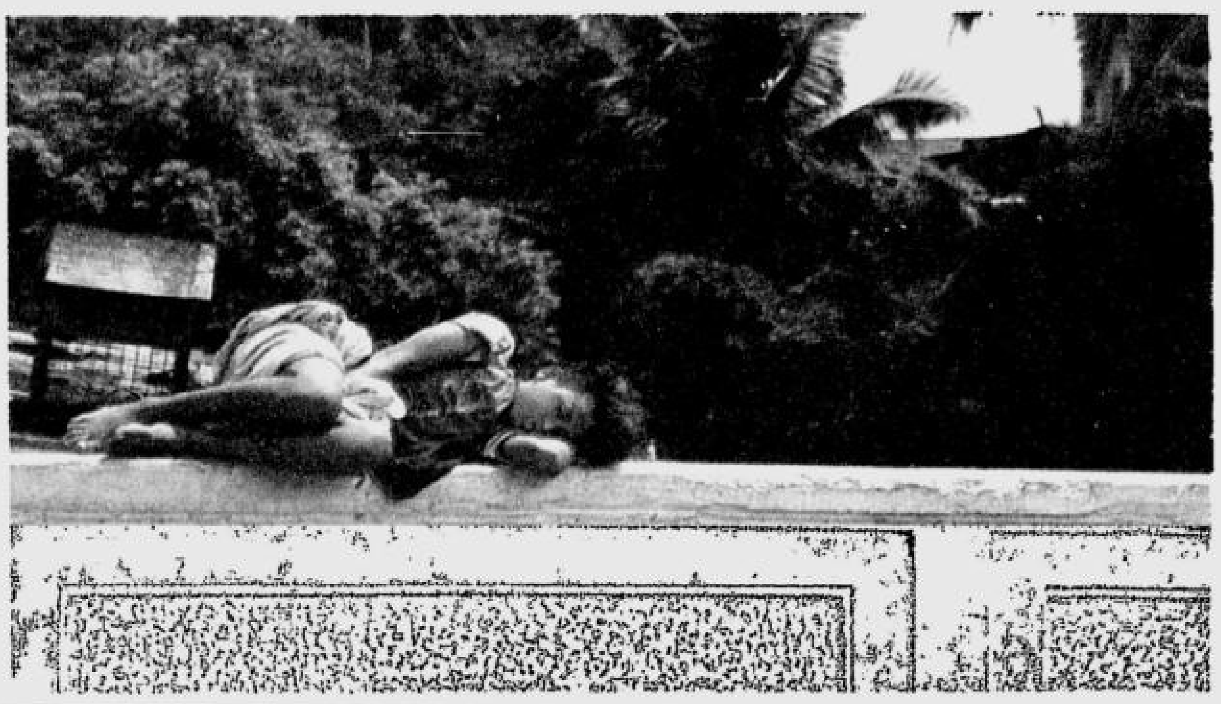
Carrido was brought to the San Juan de Dios Hospital, also in Pasay City, but he was declared dead on arrival.

The killing happened on March 19, 2000 on Gamban Street in Riverside, Pasay City, at around 5:45 p.m.

Ragasa was drinking with two companions, identified only as Jimmy and Dennis, when Carrido passed by. For no apparent reason, Ragasa stabbed Garrido with a kitchen knife.

Judge Yap dismissed Ragasa's claim of self-defense.

In his 10-page decision, Yap ruled the killing was premeditated because Ragasa shouted before the attack, "*Kung sino ang siga dito, babawasan ko* (Whoever is the tough guy around here, I will take them out)." ***Alcuin Papa, Allison Lopez, Margarette Teodosio***



A BRIDGE FOR A BED
A street boy rests his weary body on a bridge in Paco, Manila and sleeps through the noise and the dirt of the human and vehicular traffic swirling around him. ERIK ARAZAS

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June 12 to mark 'rebirth'

THE 2001 Independence Day parade should inspire Filipinos to work hard for national unity and economic recovery as the country enters a "century of rebirth," according to Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon.

Gordon, who heads the inter-agency committee for the Independence Day People's Parade, said the June 12 rites will be "our first Independence Day celebration in the new millennium. As a national parade, this one should uplift citizens, boost our self-worth and instill in us a sense of community."

He said the theme of the celebration is "Kalayaan Kapatiran 2001: Magkaisa! Manguna Muli!" To achieve this, the values of *kusang loob* (initiative), *malasakit* (concern), *kapwa tao* (sense of community) will be highlighted, he said.

He said the parade will include floats that showcase values that are necessary for the Philippines to regain its position of leadership in the region.

"It should also lead people to remember the glories brought by citizens who excelled in their respective fields and to remember the arenas where we used to enjoy positions of leadership such as aviation, transport and communications," Gordon said.

He directed the committee to work on a parade that would be lively and aesthetically enjoyable at the same time.

"Our parade must reflect the colors of the islands and the soul of our people," he said. "Invite the good marching bands to participate. We have so many of these."

He noted that bands during the early revolutionary times were "*pampalakas-loob ng mga rebolusyunaryo* (morale booster to the revolutionists)."

"We need this now, the drive to rise again," he added.

For love of his game, 12-year-old steals

A 12-YEAR-OLD was taken into custody by Manila police on Monday after he allegedly stole his grandmother's antique jewelry so he could continue playing his favorite computer game.

The boy, a Grade 5 pupil and a resident of Sampaloc, was put under investigation by the theft and robbery section of the Western Police District.

Police said the boy's grandmother a, 54-year-old businesswoman, discovered the theft when she opened her old jewelry box and found it empty.

She said that because the boy had been caught last year stealing money, she immediately suspected him in the loss of her jewels. She said she confronted the boy who eventually confessed to the theft.

Police said the boy admitted he wanted to sustain his habit of playing the computer game called Counter Strike.

The boy said he also bought expensive toys and a cell phone from the money he got from selling the jewels. At the WPD headquarters, the boy told SPO1 Mario Torente that two of his playmates, two young men aged 17 and 19, had told him to steal his grandmother's jewelry to pay for computer time.

When police confronted the parents of the two youths, the parents denied their sons had anything to do with the theft.

Counter Strike is a violent shooting game popular among boys. *Alcuin Papa*

Boulevard bomb

A GRENADE was found in the gutter along Roxas Boulevard in Manila at dawn Thursday.

The Western Police District said the WPD Explosives and Ordnance Division was told by an unidentified caller about the discovery of the grenade about 4:45 a.m. Thursday. Policemen later found an MK-2 fragmentation grenade without a firing pin.

Sources in the WPD said they were looking into the possibility that the grenade might have come from terrorists.

But the WPD director, Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos, said the grenade was rusty. "It was probably a training grenade that was washed up from the sea," he said.

The grenade, however, was found in a spot far from the Manila Bay breakwater. *Alcuin Papa*

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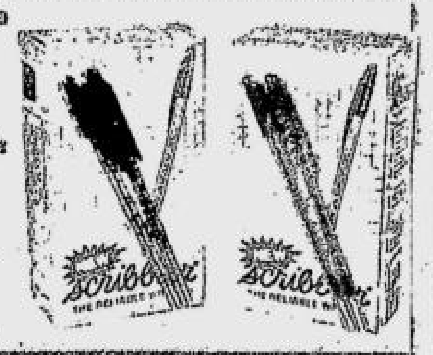

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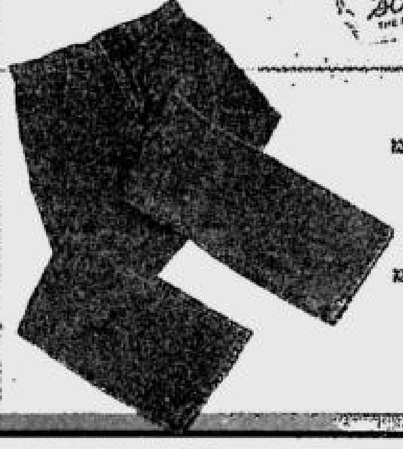

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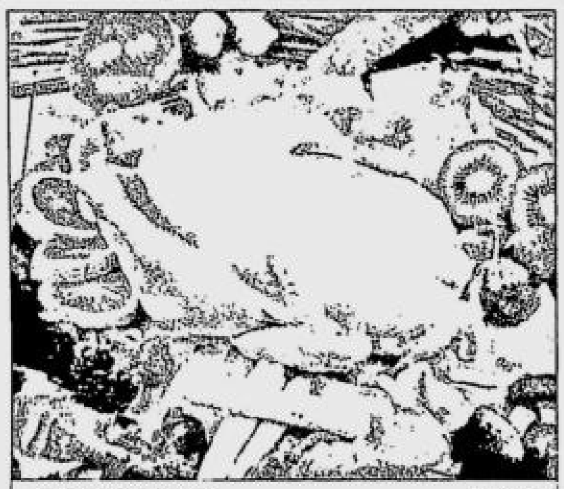

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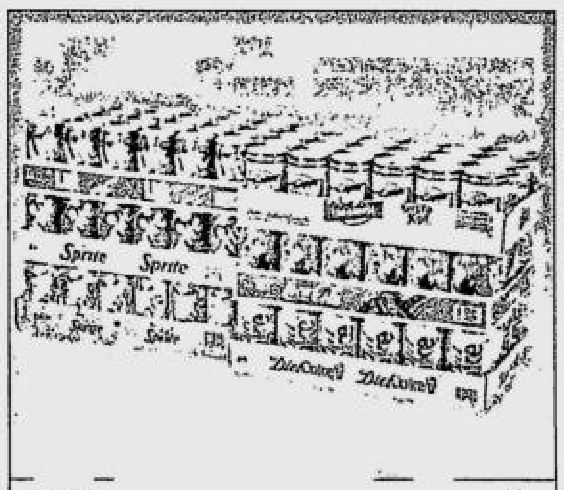

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6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWA
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3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURN
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
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7	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
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SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER
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4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
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4 GOLD (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ANGEL EYES
6 GOLD (SDDS) CUT AWAY
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE MUMMY RETURN
8 THE POSSESSED
9 SPY KIDS
10 ALAS DOSE

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4
5 QUILLS
6 (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURN
Golden Pearl THX

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2 (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURN
3 CARTA ALAS

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3 CARTA ALAS

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2 ALAS DOSE
3 CARTA ALAS
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5 KAMASUTRA 200

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1 ALAS DOSE
2 OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
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7 ANGEL EYE
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2 EXIT WOUNDS

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8 (SDDS) THE MUMMY RETURN
9 (DOLBY) ANGEL EYES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 ALAS DOSE

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 ALAS DOSE
2 ALAS DOSE
3 CARTA ALAS
4 (SDDS) THE MUMMY RETURN
5 TRAFFIC
6 (DOLBY) ANGEL EYES
7 (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURN
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Commonwealth
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2 ALAS DOSE
3 KAMASUTRA 2001
4 RESERVE
5 (SDDS) ANGEL EYES
6 CUT AWAY
7 (DOLBY) THE MUMMY RETURN
8 CARTA ALAS

Ortigas
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2 THE MUMMY RETURN
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4 CARTA ALAS
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Universal
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3 ALAS DOSE

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SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238
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2 CARTA ALAS
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4 ALAS DOSE
5 ANGEL EYES

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
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4 NEGLIGEE
5 DALAWA SI EBA
6 MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
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1 (DOLBY) ALAS DOSE
2 THE MUMMY RETURN
3 CARTA ALAS
4
5

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1 CARTA ALAS
2 ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS) VALENTINE
3 (DOLBY) THE MUMMY RETURN
4 CARTA ALAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
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2 NEGLIGEE
3 ALAS DOSE
4 (DTS) THE MUMMY RETURN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
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2 ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS) VALENTINE
4 CARTA ALAS
5 THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 THE MUMMY RETURN
2 CARTA ALAS
3 ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 THE MUMMY RETURN
2 CARTA ALAS
3 ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 BALIKTARAN
2 THE MUMMY RETURN
3 EVANGELINE 14

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736
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2 ALAS DOSE
3 CARTA ALAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
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2 (DTS) ALAS DOSE

Fourstep
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1 ALAS DOSE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438 1657
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2 THE MUMMY RETURN
3 CARTA ALAS

Fiesta World Mall
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1 ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2 THE POSSESSED
3 TRAFFIC
4 THE MUMMY RETURN

Berma
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CitiMall
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2 TRAFFIC
3 ALAS DOSE
4 THE MUMMY RETURN

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRAFFIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMASUTRA 2001
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
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ODEON-2	THE MUMMY RETURN
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REMAR-2	THE MUMMY RETURN
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CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
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CINEMA-4	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-5	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-6	THE MUMMY RETURN
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(LAS PINAS)	
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UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
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CINEMA-2	LAGARISTA
CINEMA-4	BAIT

Jail body sets up new unit

AN EMERGENCY response unit that will be fielded during riots, hostage-taking, transfer of prisoners or the outbreak of a disease was recently created in the National Capital Region by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

BJMP officer in charge Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit said the unit will provide additional personnel to help jail wardens cope with jail disturbances.

The unit has seven teams composed of BJMP male officers at the bureau's central office. A team is detailed each day to the office of the directorate for operations that has supervision over the unit. The team is ready to be sent to any jail facility in the National Capital Region at a moment's notice or on orders of the BJMP head.

Alit said each member of the team was trained in hostage negotiation, crisis management, close quarter battle, first aid and life support, evacuation and basic firefighting.

Besides assisting the jail wardens in dealing with jail disturbances, the unit can be deployed during "Operation Greyhound," the inspection of a jail facility to ferret out contraband and smuggled weapons. The unit can also be used during the transfer of high-risk prisoners or the sentence promulgation of prisoners involved in sensational cases to thwart any attempt to rescue or harm them, he added.

Anti-rabies vaccination schedule

MAKATI has released the schedule of its anti-rabies vaccination drive in the barangays from this month until September.

Mayor Elenita Binay said the local government's anti-rabies vaccination campaign continues to be enforced in the city's 33 barangays. From March 10 to April 10 alone, a total of 4,099 dogs were vaccinated in Guadalupe Nuevo, West Rembo and San Antonio, she said.

The schedule follows:

East Rembo, June 5-7; South Side, June 13-14; Poblacion, June 19-20; Palanan, June 21-22; Sta. Cruz, June 26-28; Guadalupe Viejo, July 3-5; La Paz, July 11-12; Tejeros, July 17-19; North Side, July 24-25; Singkamas, July 31-Aug. 2; Pitogo, Aug. 7-9; Pinagkaisahan, Aug. 14-16; Valenzuela, Aug. 21-23; Olympia, Aug. 28-30; Carmona, Sept. 4-6; Bangkal, Sept. 11-13; Pio del Pilar, Sept. 18-20; and Kasilawan, 25-27.

The campaign is a joint effort of the Makati Health Department, the Department of Public Safety and school officials.

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PNCC men foil hijack try

MEMBERS of the Traffic Security and Safety Department (TSSD) of the Philippine National Construction Corp. of the North Luzon Tollway recently foiled a hijack attempt along A. Bonifacio Avenue in Caloocan City.

The PNCC TSSD said a hijacking incident was reported to the PNCC Motorist Assistance Station (MAS) at the Balintawak toll plaza by truck workers Garry Deviejo and Vicente Maralit, who said their 10-wheeler cargo truck, loaded with Nestlé products, was hijacked in Barangay Libis in Quezon City.

A PNCC statement quoted Deviejo as saying that a gray Nissan Vanette (TFR-461) cut their path. Four men and a woman alighted from the car and announced a hijack.

Deviejo said the five then forced truck driver Rey Jaraola, his brother Edgar, Deviejo and Maralit to board their car.

"We were able to escape by running toward the dark and grassy portion of the PNCC perimeter fence," Deviejo said. The suspects, however, took the Jaraola brothers with them.

As PNCC MAS agents were taking the details of the incident, one of the victims spotted their cargo truck as it was about to exit the Balintawak toll plaza.

The PNCC MAS men—guards Juanito B. Cobardo, Merlindo Palce, Artemio Antipas and Jerico Gasmena—boarded a passing white Kia taxi and went after the truck.

Three PNCC patrol vehicles with Rodolfo Estolano, German Cruz, Valentin Pascual, Antonio Dulay and Rufo Gatiangco on board also followed the truck. They were joined by policemen from the Central Police District Station 1 in Quezon City.

The PNCC security men intercepted the truck at a Shell gasoline station along A. Bonifacio in Caloocan City.

Suspect Reynaldo Santos Jr. of Tondo, Manila, was turned over to the La Loma police station. Hours later, the Jaraola brothers were found in Barangay Deparo in Caloocan, who were safe except for some body bruises.

Fresh from province, man met by 3 young robbers in Caloocan

THREE young men allegedly stole a sack of rice and money from a man who had just arrived from the province in Caloocan City Thursday morning.

Polie said Roberto Hidalgo, 23, of Sampaguita Street, 11th Avenue, Caloocan, and two unidentified companions robbed Jose Lucas Jr., 22, at about 3 a.m. Thursday.

Lucas had just arrived from Camarines Norte and boarded a tricycle driven by Hidalgo, who was accompanied by the unidentified pair. Lucas asked to be brought to his house on Matignas Street along 11th Avenue.

At the corner of Edsa and Biglang Awa Street, the tricycle trio announced the holdup and ordered Lucas to alight, police learned.

When Lucas refused to leave, the trio dragged him out of the tricycle.

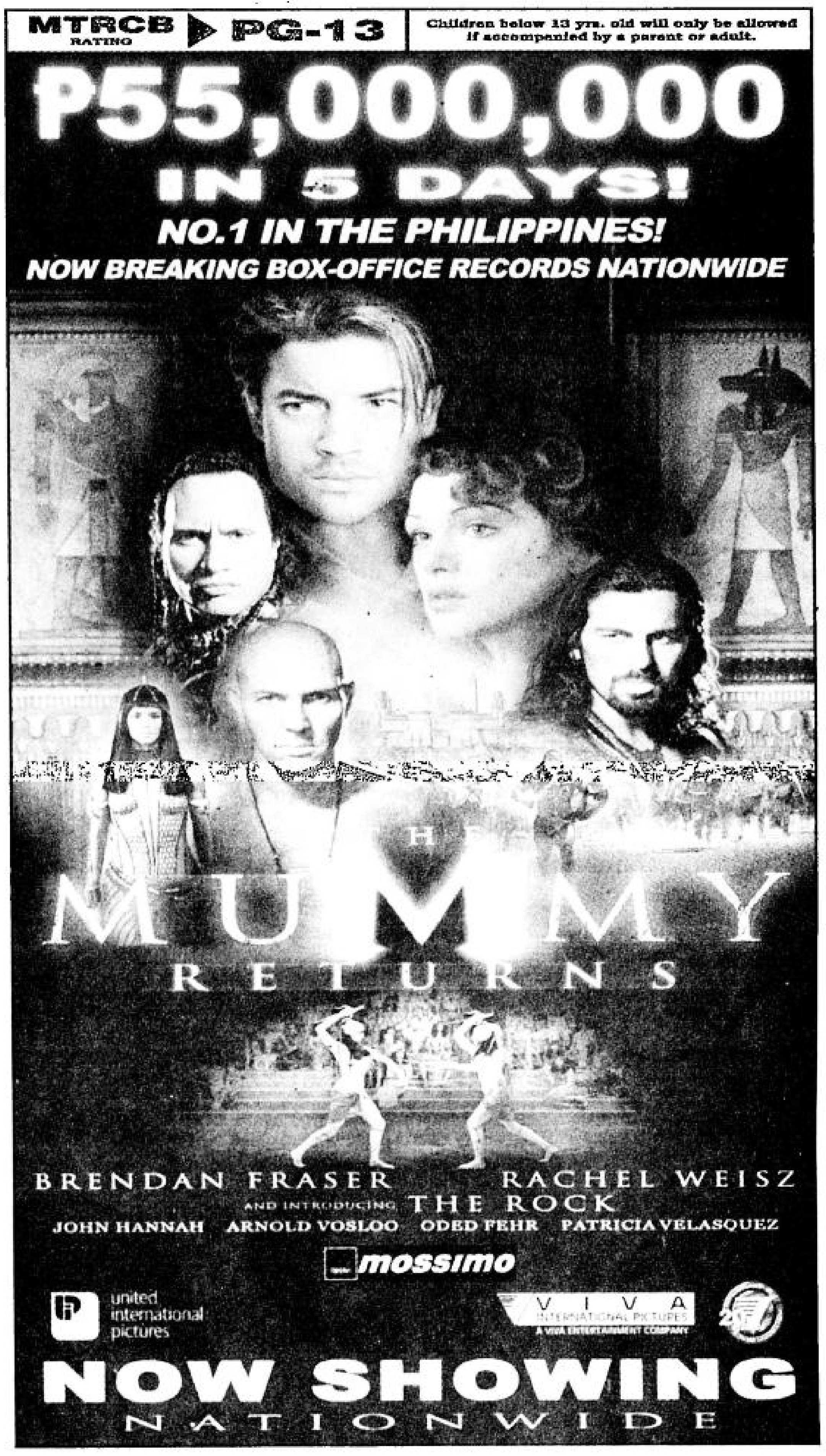
Investigators said Hidalgo and his companions also took Lucas's P2,100 cash.

When Lucas tried to run after the three men, Hidaldgo and his companions alighted from the tricycle and took turns in beating him up, police said.

A badly bruised Lucas reported the robbery and beating to the Caloocan police.

Police later arrested Hidalgo, but the two others remain at large.

The three suspects are facing charges of robbery with physical injury before the Caloocan City Pro-secutor's Office.
Christian V. Esguerra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MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10	TRAFFIC - P 13 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	MUMMY RETURNS - P 13 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:00

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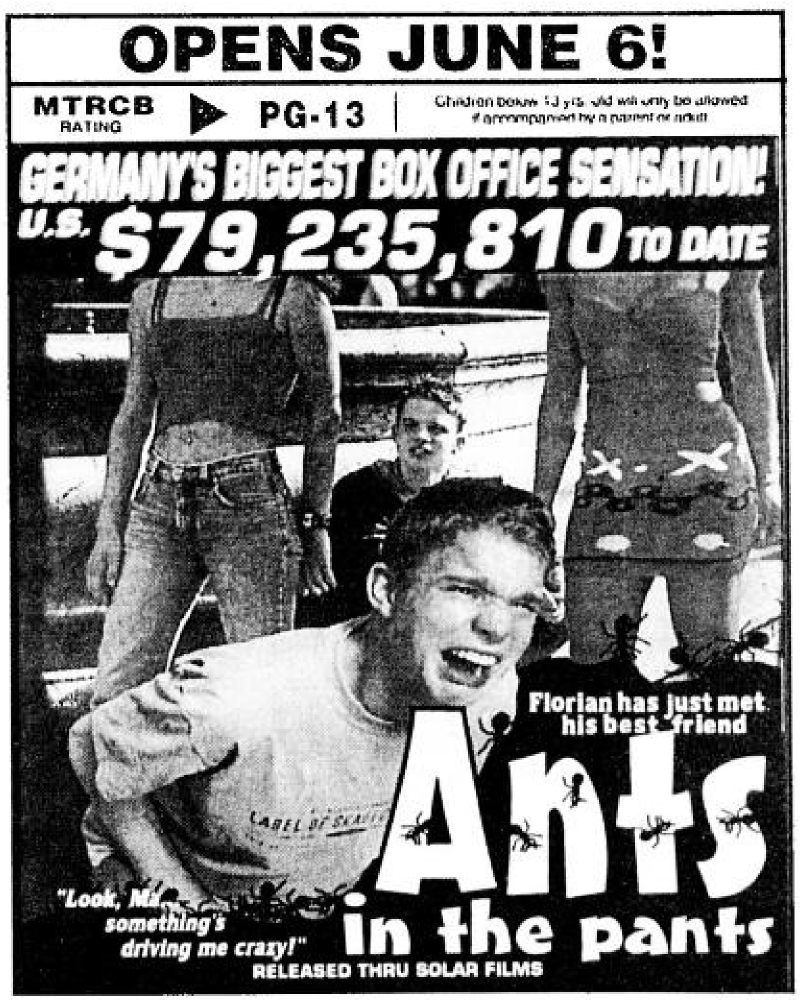
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Please stop polluting the Pasig — Arroyo

ARROYO

AT LEAST 148 cubic meters of floating debris were collected from the Pasig River and more than 20 sacks of floating garbage were gathered from the flood control system of the Estero de Pandacan in Manila during the 10-day clean-up drive by members of the Philippine Navy (PN).

But presidential husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, honorary head of the Pasig River Rehabilitation project, on Thursday asked the navy to make the clean-up drive a continuing activity instead of just doing it on the Philippine Navy anniversary, which falls on May 23.

The navy conducted the clean-up drive from May 18 to 31 as part of its 103rd anniversary.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the PN Pasig River clean-up and engineering civic action projects held at the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, Arroyo thanked the navy for its contributions to the clean-up.

Arroyo also appealed to the residents along the Pasig River to be more concerned and conscientious about the river's cleanliness.

He said the ultimate success of the Pasig River clean-up drive and similar environmental management programs would depend on the willingness of a conscientious population to cooperate with and assist the government and the NGOs spearheading the drive.

"Let us not dump garbage and other pollutants in Pasig River," Mr. Arroyo said in Filipino.

Rear Admiral Pastor Ramos reported that during the two-week operation at the Pasig River, at least 18 boats and engineering equipment manned by 225 personnel were mobilized.

"They were spread along the length of the Pasig River from Del Pan Bridge up to Nagtahan Bridge," Ramos reported.

Aside from collecting garbage and floating debris from the river, the task force also painted more than two kilometers of walls along the Pasig River banks, he said.

Arroyo sought the help of the navy to clear and clean Estero de Pandacan after he saw that it was clogged with garbage and other pollutants during a recent visit to the barangay.

The task force also helped clean and rehabilitate the Hospicio de San Jose, an orphanage housing about 200 abandoned, orphaned or surrendered children, said Capt. Margarito V. Sanchez, Naval Construction Brigade commander.

Arroyo gave a P20,000 donation to the orphanage.

15-year-old slay suspect accused of abusing girl

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy who was being questioned for his alleged involvement in the killing of another youngster now faces another criminal charge.

Yesterday, the boy was accused of molesting a Grade 3 pupil. Police said the alleged sexual abuse happened in the premises of the Central Police District headquarters in Camp Karingal, Quezon City.

Police last Saturday picked up the boy after he was linked to the killing of tricycle driver Jeffrey Pard on March 23.

The boy was brought to police headquarters for questioning but he was not placed behind bars pending the issuance of a warrant of arrest.

Police said that after the questioning, the boy refused to go home and asked if he could just hang around the headquarters.

They said the boy later went out of the headquarters and saw an 8-year-old girl selling candy outside the Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police said the boy befriended the girl and invited her to "play house" with him at the back of the Traffic Sector Office building. He allegedly started touching the girl's private parts but a CPD errand boy saw him and reported it to the policemen.

PO1 Reynaldo Arsol, PO1 Molin Asignado and PO1 Sandro Bernardo said they caught the boy in the act of raping the girl.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1196 Series of 2001

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▨ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Asean cold to RP tariff cut freeze plea

Trade off seen to hurt certain local industries

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE MACAPAGAL administration will likely sacrifice other industries in order to convince Asean members to approve the Philippines' appeal for a freeze on the tariff cuts on petrochemical products.

This was revealed by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II following his meeting with fellow trade ministers in Asean who were not so keen on giving in to the Philippines' request.

Roxas told reporters that the government has no choice but to compensate other Asean members by offering tariff cuts in other sectors if it would pursue its lobbying to keep duties on petrochemical products at 15 percent for the next five to 10 years. He said a trade-off was a reality that the country has to face in global trade.

Duties on polymers or base materials for plastic products are scheduled to go down to 5 percent by 2003 when duties on intra-Asean trade should be kept to no more than 5 percent.

Based on Roxas' meeting with fellow trade ministers last month, most Asean members were indifferent to the Philippines' request because of concerns that it could set back the implementation of the Asean Free Trade Area in 2003.

Also, the major Asean countries already have very advanced petrochemical industries unlike the Philippines which has yet to implement the integration of its industry, with its first naphtha cracker still on the drawing board.

Roxas did not reveal what local industries would have to suffer from steeper cuts in their duties in order to protect the petrochemical industry, which has been tagged as critical to the industrial development of the country.

Local petrochemical players are using their planned $700-million investment to build a naphtha cracker in Bataan as a leverage to get government concessions in terms of higher tariff walls for their products.

But the construction of a single naphtha cracker to serve all monomer requirements of local players has been delayed by financing concerns as well as conflict on a common equity sharing for the project.

Based on original plans, PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. would take at least 20 percent in the project with the balance to be shared between the prospective investors such as Chinese Petroleum Corp. of Taiwan, Petrochemical Corp. of Asia-Pacific, Bataan Polyethylene Corp., Philippine Resins Industries Inc., Mabuhay Vinyl Corp., JG Summit Petrochemical Corp., and Sumitomo Corp. of Japan.

The proposed naphtha cracker will have a capacity of 350,000 to 500,000 metric tons annually, enough to meet present demand and future increases. The consortium should finish the naphtha cracker by 2002 or 2003.

INDICATORS

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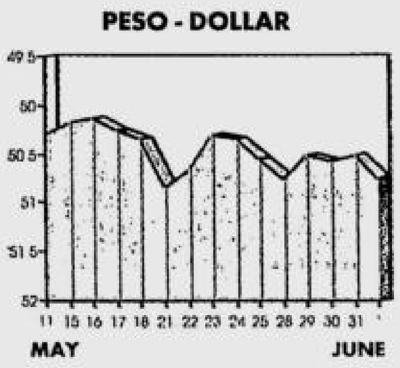


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.75 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
June 1, 2001

¥ 118.78 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 118.78 as of 5 p.m., June 1, 2001

GOLD:$266.00/266.50

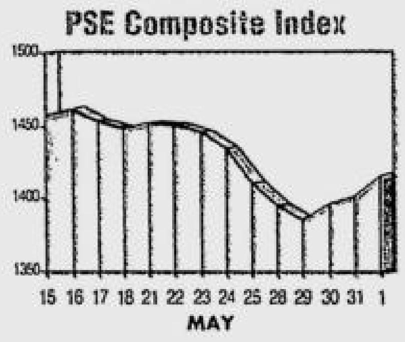
per ounce Hong Kong,
June 1, 2001

June 1, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.180916	1.000000	50.4950
Japan	Yen	0.009915	0.008396	0.4240
United Kingdom	Pound	1.675130	1.418500	71.6272
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151414	0.128217	6.4743
Switzerland	Franc	0.658185	0.557351	28.1434
Canada	Dollar	0.768225	0.650533	32.8487
Singapore	Dollar	0.652801	0.552792	27.9132
Australia	Dollar	0.597781	0.506201	25.5606
Bahrain	Dinar	3.132571	2.652661	133.9461
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.314894	0.266652	13.4646
Brunei	Dollar	0.650570	0.550903	27.8178
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000090	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.026029	0.022041	1.1130
UAE	Dirham	0.321556	0.272294	13.7495
Korea	Won	0.000922	0.000781	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.846800	42.7592
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.432962	21.8624
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129094	6.5186
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.384261	19.4033
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.061539	3.1074
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.020992	1.0600
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000437	0.0221
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142422	7.1916
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004224	0.2133
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005089	0.2570
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.020992	1.0600
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.075214	54.2929

STOCK MARKET

Shares up



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS ended higher yesterday, spurred by hopes the long-awaited power sector reform bill would finally become law next week, traders said.

However, some late profit-taking trimmed the upside, reflecting the continued short-term nature of investor behavior at present amid the gloomy macroeconomic environment.

The main index closed up 13.80 points, or 0.98 percent, at 1,416.09 points. The index hit a high of 1,424.91 during the session. Turnover reached P669.20 million, supported by a cross transaction of about P172.51 million worth of shares of C&P Homes to Ayala Land.

"It's (the market rise) basically the power bill news . . . people are punting on the perceived benefits to business after its passage," Regina Capital Development vice president Allan Araullo said.

The bill's advocates say it will lead to a more efficient electricity industry, cheaper power costs and pave the way for new infrastructure investment to avoid future power shortage. *Reuters*

PCCI offers to help DOT

BUSINESSMEN will use their international contacts to correct the wrong impressions about the prevailing peace and order situation in the Philippines.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries committed to Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon to mobilize its global network to reflect the general climate of peace and order in the Philippines to avert damage to tourism due to negative publicity in the international media.

In a PCCI meeting yesterday with Gordon as guest speaker, Miguel Varela, PCCI president, said the chamber would coordinate with global associations it is affiliated with and with 42 bilateral business councils.

Among these are the international chambers of commerce, the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers, the Apec Business Advisory Council, and the Asean chambers of commerce and industries.

Gordon hailed the efforts of the PCCI to avert the image problem besetting the country in the world tourism market and to cooperate with the government on plans to prepare for the inflow of tourists in the country.

Plantersbank's resources

PLANTERSBANK has posted a 17-percent growth in resources and 13-percent increase in loan portfolio last year.

The bank's total resources reached P20.2 billion while its loan portfolio amounted to P12.8 billion.

One of the major accomplishments of the bank last year was the alliance it forged with International Finance Corp., the World Bank's investment arm. IFC earmarked a financial package for Plantersbank involving $25.5 million. With an augmented capital base, Plantersbank became more capable of providing long-term financing to small and medium enterprises.

CIIF mills post profits

THE CIIF Oil Mills, the largest domestic producer and exporter of coconut oil and other coconut by-products, said it posted a seven-fold increase in its net income in 2000 from its year-ago level. Based on recently completed audited reports, the CIIF Oil Mills posted a net income of P240 million in 2000, a complete turnaround from a net loss in 1999.

CIIF Oil Mills chair Jeronimo U. Kilayko said the company's strong earning results in 2000 was driven by the hefty growth in export sales. Volume of coconut oil and coconut pellet exports nearly tripled from 180,098 metric tons.

The group operates five coconut oil mills in various parts of the country such as Legaspi Oil Co., Granexport Manufacturing Corp., Cagayan de Oro Oil Co., San Pablo Manufacturing Corp. and Southern Luzon Coconut Oil Mill.

Uniwide allowed to settle debts with 3 banks

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the partial implementation of the amended rehabilitation plan of cash-strapped Uniwide group of companies despite its failure to lure new investors.

In an order Thursday, the SEC hearing panel for Uniwide said the retail group was allowed to execute payment in kind or so-called dacion en pago arrangements with Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., International Exchange Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank, which are among the group's creditors.

The approval allows Uniwide to offset its debts to the three banks through the release of mortgaged real properties that are not used in the retail business.

The SEC-appointed interim receivership committee of Uniwide earlier requested for the approval of the dacion en pago arrangements in order to reduce the retail group's over P10 billion in debts and improve its chances of finding a white knight.

The Uniwide group is reportedly in talks with potential investors that could fill in the shoes of French retailer Casino Guichard-Perrachon, which early this year abandoned a planned P3.57-billion investment in Uniwide amid the political crisis that hit the country last year.

In February last year, the SEC approved a proposed amended rehabilitation plan for Uniwide covering the supposed entry of Casino and the dacion en pago or payment in kind arrangements with creditor banks. Uniwide, however, failed to secure the nod of the creditor banks for the dacion en pago arrangements within the time frame set by Casino, which refused to extend the end-2000 deadline.

BSP happy with current peso-dollar exchange rate

SINGAPORE—Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday said he was happy with the peso's current level against the dollar, relative to other regional currencies.

"I am happy with the current level of the peso given the level of other (currencies)," Buenaventura said in an interview on the sidelines of the Southeast Asia Central Bankers Conference in Singapore.

"It seems to be competitive with the rest of the regional (currencies) relative to the US dollar, with a slight premium," he said, adding the central bank was not looking at a particular level.

"I think it's more important that it moves in concert with other currencies and will gain competitiveness."

The peso was trading at around 50.50/60 to the dollar yesterday, little changed from its Thursday close at 50.50 to $1.

Buenaventura said the central bank could lower its rates by 100 basis points if the inflation rate trended below 6 percent.

"If the inflation rate is trending below 6 percent, then we can roughly lower the interest rate by another one percent."

The bank left its key overnight rates unchanged at a weekly policy meeting on Thursday, citing a stable currency and upcoming inflation data. The overnight borrowing rate is currently at 9.0 percent and the lending rate at 11.25 percent.

The bank has cut rates by six percentage points to match levels seen in early May last year. It hiked rates by four percentage points in October 2000 when a political crisis sent the peso plunging.

Consumer price inflation was steady at 6.7 percent year-on-year in both March and April.

BUENAVENTURA

May data is due to be announced on June 5.

Buenaventura said growth would continue to slow in the second quarter, but should see a slight improvement over the first quarter's 2.5 percent year-on-year growth.

"Second quarter growth will be better than 2.5 percent but it's hard to say it'll be better than 3 percent," he said, adding that any major improvement would only come in the second half.

The government said on Thursday it was maintaining the lower end of its 2001 growth forecast of 3.8 percent to 4.3 percent as its official estimate. *Reuters*

POOR FIRST QUARTER DATA

Asian countries grope for recovery

SINGAPORE—Downside surprises in Asia's first quarter growth have not killed all hope of a recovery later this year, but analysts warn of further deterioration before things improve.

Prospects of a pick up in the United States, Asia's largest export market and biggest investor, are cloudy to say the least.

"The big debate is still on whether a US recovery comes in the fourth quarter or if it will take through to the first or second quarter (of 2002)," said Dominic Armstrong, head of Asia research at ABN AMRO Securities.

Concern over the US was heightened after first quarter GDP slowed to 1.3 percent against a preliminary 2.0 percent.

The days of boundless optimism over the tech sector are over, causing a massive pile of inventories both in terms of goods and capital. There is little sign of recovery.

Tech-dependent

With the tech cycle likely to limp behind recovery in other sectors, tech-reliant economies will suffer more.

"Economies that are more in sync with the tech cycle like those of Taiwan, Singapore and Korea will lag behind say economies like Thailand and China," said Nicholas Bibby, associate director of research at UBS Warburg in Hong Kong.

But Fong Cheng Hong, head of treasury and markets research at DBS Bank in Singapore, expected tech-Asia to catch up with the US recovery much faster.

"Asia follows any recovery in the US with a lag of two quarters but that lag tends to be shorter by one quarter for the more tech-sensitive economies," she said.

In general, economies with a mixed export portfolio and a stronger domestic base should weather the downturn better.

Political risks

However, political risks in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand will continue to hold back investment and growth.

ASIAN/ B2

May inflation seen unchanged

THE ANNUAL inflation data in May are expected to be unchanged from April, checked by ample food supplies and a subdued economy, economists said yesterday.

Ten economists polled forecast that inflation in May would average at 6.68 percent year-on-year. Estimates ranged from 6.5 percent to 7.0 percent. In April, consumer prices rose 6.7 percent year-on-year.

The government said on May 31 that the May inflation data should show a year-on-year rise around 6.9 percent. The statistics are scheduled to be published on Tuesday.

Speaking on Thursday, Socioeconomic Planning Agency Undersecretary Gilbert Llanto said: "We expect inflation to peak in June or July and after that we expect it to go down."

Economists agreed with the forecast trend. They added that if there was an uptick in May, it would have been largely due to the flow through effect of peso weakness on import prices.

The fuel price hikes announced by Caltex (Philippines) and Petron Corp. on May 23 might also have been a minor factor, although the real impact would be felt later in dearer transport costs.

"Fuel alone is a very small increment of the price basket . . . it's the knock-on effect (on transportation costs) you have to watch," Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines chief strategist and economist Jojo Gonzales said.

Some transport operators have warned they may hike fares in response to the fuel price rise.

Moving forward, Abacus Securities economist Emilio Neri said service sector prices were likely to pick up over the next two months.

"Price adjustments in the middle of the year are typical for services," he said, citing tuition fees and utility rates as examples. *Reuters*

ALI buys 11.6% interest in C&P

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PREMIER property developer Ayala Land Inc. yesterday acquired an 11.6-percent stake in C&P Homes Inc., the country's biggest low-cost housing company founded by former House Speaker Manuel Villar Jr.

But ALI quickly brushed aside speculations that a bigger buy-in deal into C&P Homes was on the horizon. It said it was not keen on reviving an earlier plan to acquire a 38-percent stake in the company.

"We don't consider the shares (bought) as a strategic investment," ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael said.

Ysmael yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that 556.49 million shares of C&P Homes were transferred by Fine Properties Inc., which forms part of the Villar group, to ALI at P0.31.

The deal, worth around P172.5 million, was a settlement of the deposit earlier paid by ALI to Fine in connection with an aborted plan to buy certain properties owned by Fine and its subsidiaries in Metro Manila and Cavite.

Although ALI had already made a down payment, the purchase was not consummated due to failure to meet certain closing conditions.

Ysmael said ALI was not keen on taking an active part in the management of C&P Homes, as the 11.6-percent stake was not even enough to acquire one board seat in the company. He noted that a minimum of 12.5-percent stake was needed to get one board representation in C&P Homes.

ALI earlier wanted to buy a 38-percent stake in C&P Homes to establish its presence in the socialized and mass housing sectors but negotiations with Villar's group bogged down. The aborted plan was to swap 208 million of ALI shares for 1.6 billion shares of C&P Homes held by Fine Properties.

Ayala Corp., Ayala Land's parent firm, will buy back its subsidiary's shares for P3.6 billion. The deal would have given the Villar group fresh funds to address around P3 billion worth of debts being restructured then.

Music says it can cover loss of New York dotcom unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

SEMICONDUCTOR firm Music Corp. said yesterday it had made adequate provisions for the closure of its Internet unit Music.com.

With this assurance, the share price of Music rebounded by 22 percent at the Philippine Stock Exchange to close at P2.10, making it the top gainer at the local bourse.

In a disclosure, Music corporate secretary Jimmy Soo informed the stock exchange that as early as last year, when Internet companies started getting into financial trouble, Music had already written off possible loss of investment in its own dotcom unit.

As such, Soo said Music, whose core business was in semiconductors and telecommunications, would face no material changes in its income statement or balance sheet this year.

"Music Corp. believes that its investments in Music Semiconductors and Music Telecom will provide its shareholders with superior value once the current global economic and technology industry malaise is over," Soo said.

The company owns a 97-percent stake in Music Semiconductors and a 96-percent stake in Music Telecom Inc., which it considers its strategic investments.

On the other hand, Soo stressed that Music only owned a 19-percent stake in Music.com.

The slump in the Internet sector has pushed this New York-based dotcom to the brink of bankruptcy, prompting the parent firm to raise fresh funds for the bleeding music portal.

Music invited its shareholders to subscribe to new warrants, proceeds from which would be used to shore up the subsidiary's dwindling cash position.

The invitation, however, came with a warning that "such cash infusion at this point involves significant risk and does not assure the continued operation of Music.com nor the recovery of the investment through a sale of the company's assets at a significantly higher value than what could be realized at a company liquidation."

To date, Music.com has already resorted to severe austerity measures, by laying off 70 percent of its employees and closing its Nashville and Los Angeles offices.. Despite this, however, officials admitted that the dotcom company would not be able to last for another three weeks without immediate cash infusion.

The near-bankruptcy came amid Music.com's aggressive global expansion during the last few months. It acquired two French websites to pave the way for its entry to the European market and also acquired Singapore-based Xudio.com to gain a foothold in the Asian market. It also entered into a joint venture deal with US-based Millor Entertainment Group on a magazine publication business and entered into a strategic partnership with Catcha.com, a Southeast Asian online portal and directory.

RFM says Cosmos unit not for sale

RFM Corp., the country's second largest food and beverage firm, said yesterday it was not selling its beverage unit Cosmos Bottling Corp.

Earlier reports said Cosmos, which makes the country's third-largest selling soft-drink brand Pop Cola, had caught the eye of food and beer giant San Miguel Corp., which was keen on expanding its food and beverage line up this year.

"As far as RFM is concerned, RFM is banking on Cosmos as a major play in our portfolio. Given the extraordinary performance, there are many interested investors, even unsolicited offers," RFM spokesperson Mon Lopez told Reuters.

"We're not selling Cosmos. It's not on the table," he said.

The stock has now gained 71 percent since the beginning of the year, driven by speculation its parent, RFM, was poised to sell the company. Cosmos closed 45 centavos higher at P3.90 yesterday, a high for the year.

Cosmos' net income for the first quarter of 2001 jumped 43 percent to P210.53 million from P146.72 million in the same period last year. Its net sales rose 39 percent in the first quarter to P1.51 billion from P1.09 billion.

San Miguel president and chief operating officer Francisco Eizmendi said earlier this week the firm was keen to acquire more companies with interests in the same business. *Reuters*

RCBC merges credit card units

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. yesterday said it would consolidate its credit card business in Bankard Inc., which its wholly owned unit bought recently.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the medium-sized commercial bank said Bankard would assume all the assets and liabilities of the RCBC Credit Card division.

RCBC Capital Corp., the wholly owned investment house unit of RCBC, recently acquired a controlling interest in Bankard.

The cost of Bankard's purchase of RCBC's credit card division will be based on the net asset value of the credit division as of May 31, the disclosure said. On April 31, the net value of the credit card division was estimated at P1 billion.

Asian countries grope for recovery

(From page B1)

The Philippines stands to suffer even more as about 50 percent of its exports go to the United States, compared with 21 percent for Thailand.

The difference is reflected in the numbers.

Philippine first quarter growth shrank by 0.5 percent on the quarter and grew just 2.5 percent on the year, the lowest in two years, due to political volatility and lower global demand for electronics products.

Thailand sees first quarter growth of 2.5-3.0 percent, against 3.1 percent in the fourth quarter. The central bank has already scaled down its full-year growth forecast to 2.5 percent from an earlier 3.5 to 5.0 percent.

Politically troubled Indonesia saw its economy grow 4.01 percent on-year in the first quarter and the government has cut the 2001 growth forecast to 3.25-3.75 percent from 5 percent.

Indonesia's woes are only likely to worsen, with its consumer confidence index at two-year lows and expected to go lower.

Among the technology leaders, the risks to growth are more balanced.

Analysts said South Korea might be best placed to outperform the rest given its large domestic economy, with exports contributing only 37 percent to GDP. The economy grew 0.3 percent on quarter in the first quarter, topping expectations of a 0.1-percent rise, and was up 4.6 percent year-on-year.

But a decline in whole and retail sales and a rise in inventories suggest an easing in domestic consumption which had till now taken up the slack from falling exports.

Singapore, on the other hand, has half of its manufacturing exposed to tech exports. Growth in the first quarter shrank 11 percent on an annualized seasonally adjusted basis and the government expects at least another quarter of contraction.

But Singapore's lower exposure to communication and wireless sectors, where inventory build up is the highest and demand is likely to re-emerge last, is likely to help. *Reuters*

BSP, SEC clarify jurisdictions

THE MONETARY Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved separate agreements with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Home Guaranty Corp. to address existing regulatory inefficiencies.

Deputy BSP Governor Alberto Reyes said the revised agreement with the SEC detailed what entities and activities would be supervised and regulated by which watchdog.

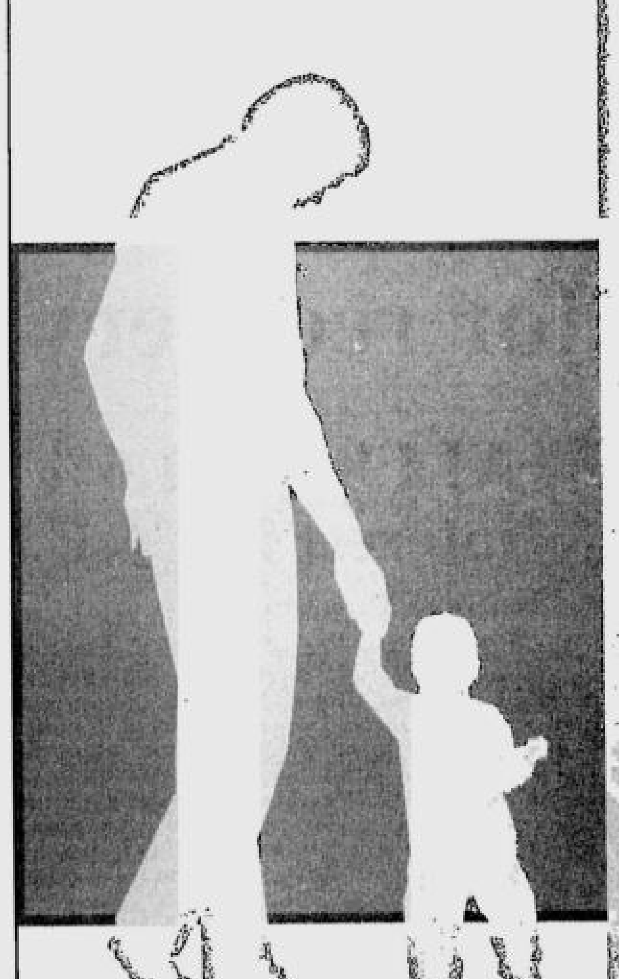
The original memorandum of agreement signed in 1998 by former BSP Governor Gabriel Singson and former SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. was reviewed last year after a confusion arose as to which regulator would run after which company.

The original agreement failed to sufficiently address cracks that surfaced after Westmont Investment Corp., ASB Realty Corp. and Urbancorp Investment Corp. asked the SEC for a rehabilitation and suspension of payments.

Industry observers said the BSP and the SEC were remiss in tracking down investment houses and real estate firms suffering liquidity problems.

The confusion of the two agencies even worsened in the case of Urban Bank Inc., whose fall was traced to its investment arm, Urbancorp.

The agreement, said Reyes, was to put investment houses with trust functions, quasi-banking and bank affiliates under the watch of the central bank.



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Dell opens PC parts center

DELL Computer Corp., one of the world's biggest makers of personal computers, has opened a "parts exchange center" in the Philippines to better serve its customers here.

"Even if Dell is fairly new in the Philippines, it already has a rapidly growing subscriber base. We need to make sure mission-critical servers have parts in the country," Dell managing director for South Asia Jimmy Yam said yesterday.

Dell Philippines country manager Rosan Sison said the US computer maker had ranked No. 5 in the Philippines, with a 142-percent growth rate in the first quarter year-on-year.

Dell, she said, was the country's top provider of branded workstations with a 26-percent market share.

"That's why we need to beef up support for our clients. Setting up a PEC here will provide our clients confidence that parts are readily available in the country (when needed)," Yam added.

With its partnership with international warehousing and logistics firm Exel Philippines Inc., Dell expects to improve its overall service in the country, as well as meet the contractual service requirements of global and major corporate customers through its parts exchange center.

"We want to provide better support so we can achieve improved overall customer satisfaction," Yam said.

As of end-April, Dell posted a 42-percent growth in revenue and a 65-percent growth in the number of units sold. *Abigail L. Ho*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, June 1, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	77,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75.5	76	75.5	76	113,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	30,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	1,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	214	212	213	236,780
Philippine National Bank	51.5	52	51.5	52	112,500
Security Bank Corp.	20.75	21.5	20.75	21.25	45,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1305	1280	1305	3,950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	6,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1050	1070	1050	1070	3,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	7,300
Diversified Fin. Network	8	8	8	8	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	390,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	685	670	670	10,630
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	25,000
Piltel	0.65	0.7	0.63	0.65	1,160,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	580,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	665	650	655	73,040
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	90,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.041	393,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42	43	41	41	412,900
Manila Electric Co. B	61.5	61.5	59.5	61	1,080,300
Petron Corp.	1.92	2.04	1.92	2	15,912,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	264,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.24	2.36	2.24	2.34	11,763,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	24,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.5	3.95	3.5	3.9	4,339,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	100,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	393,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	10,000
Rim Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	32,900
San Miguel Corp. B	47	47	46.5	46.5	466,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	602,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.68	1.74	1.64	1.64	4,889,000
Alliance Global Group Inc	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.5	2,400
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	250,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.55	0.58	0.54	0.54	250,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.5	1.5	11,984,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.32	4,950,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	745,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	24	24.5	24	24	448,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	600,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	600,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	300,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	16,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2	1.98	2	197,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.73	0.74	1,820,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.48	0.5	260,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	590,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,700,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.74	2.1	1.7	2.1	1,260,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	60,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	16	16.25	16	16	82,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,190,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	700,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	20	20	18	18	2,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	850,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	38,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	38.5	38.5	37.5	37.5	58,100
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	675	690	660	690	7,500
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	10,200
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	87,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	44,700,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	4.95	4.95	6,679,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.35	579,120,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	4,080,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.12	1,335,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	110,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.5	6,950,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,300,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	2,100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	40,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	71,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	37,600,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	4,600,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	16,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	9,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	679,800	76,192,990.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	597,834,470	327,981,090.00
PRO	600,314,000	263,376,550.00
Mining	150,780,000	1,131,450.00
OIL	36,200,000	321,400.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,385,808,270	669,003,480.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	606.22	UP 0.06
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,963.55	UP 21.05
PRO	527.19	UP 5.39
Mining	1,089.91	DOWN 11.70
OIL	1.45	UP 0.02
All Shares Index	756.77	UP 9.65
Composite	1,416.09	UP 13.80

NO. OF ADVANCES: 42; NO. OF DECLINES: 21; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 108; NO. OF TRADES: 3,310

DISCLOSURES

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.**, scheduled every second Thursday of July in its by-laws, has been reset to July 17. The record date is June 15.

***

MANILA Electric Co. has confirmed reports quoting its president, Manolo Lopez, of saying it has plans to buy back its shares to show its real value.

***

BENPRES Holdings Corp. said it had adequate provisions for the long-term commercial paper payment of P1 billion due this year. For 2002, it is exploring different refinancing alternatives to meet its Eurobond payments.

***

PANCAKE House Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 26, 10 a.m., at the Lapanday Center in Makati.

***

THE BOARD of **APC Group Inc.** has rescheduled its annual stockholders' meeting from June 12 to June 29.

***

THE BOARD of **Apex Mining Co. Inc.** has approved to secure a loan from **Manila Bankers Life Insurance Corp.** for additional working capital preparatory to the resumption of mining operations. Its property in Valle Verde Mansions shall be posted as collateral.

***

THE RECORD date for the June 29 annual stockholders' meeting of **Vitarich Corp.** is May 30.

***

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 350,000 shares at P2.12 per share on May 31 for its buy back program.

***

SOLID Group Inc. bought 5.98 million shares of the company's stock on May 31.

***

ELECTED as officers of **SPI Technologies Inc.** were Alfredo Ayala, chair of the board; Ernest Chu, president and chief executive; Francisco Suarez Jr., treasurer and chief finance officer; Gemma Santos, corporate secretary; and Christian de Jesus, assistant corporate secretary.

***

KENNETH Gatchalian was elected director and vice chair of **Waterfront Philippines Inc.** effective May 31. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

Japan's reform proposals aim to boost jobs

A TOKYO money dealer throws the order sheets into a basket as the US dollar is traded at between 118.55 and 118.65 yen yesterday afternoon. The US dollar weakened against the yen and bought 118.92 yen at 3 p.m., down 0.14 yen from late Thursday in Tokyo and below its late New York level of 119.14 yen overnight.

TOKYO—Japan's government is set to tackle a plan to create 5 million jobs and revitalize the moribund economy after a decade of drift, a minister said yesterday.

Draft guidelines presented to a cabinet committee Thursday would be fleshed out by the end of this month to help realize Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's pledge to bring about structural reform and return the world's second biggest economy to a growth path.

"We are shifting from a brainstorming phase to putting (the guidelines) together," said Heizo Takenaka, state minister for economic and fiscal policy.

Takenaka presented a blueprint of the reform plan to the 11-member economic and fiscal policy council, a cabinet committee chaired by Koizumi.

The draft seeks to make government spending more effective and to look at privatization of some loss-making government bodies.

It pledges to create 5 million jobs over the next five years, many in the services sector.

Issuance of government bonds would be capped at under 30 trillion yen ($250 billion).

A mountain of bad loans held by banks must be cleared, the blueprint said, although no details were given on how this would be done.

Tax grants to local governments were also to be reviewed, with the guideline draft urging regions to generate their own revenue through raising local taxes instead of relying too heavily on subsidies from Tokyo.

The plan also identifies a need to encourage free competition, reform the tax system and deal with Japan's aging population.

Concrete details have yet to be decided on, said Takenaka. *AFP*

Japan told to eliminate bad loans

WASHINGTON—Japan must get rid of the bad loans burdening its financial sector, and this is necessary for Japan's easy monetary policy to succeed, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan was quoted as telling top Japanese politicians on Thursday.

"Chairman Greenspan expressed his view that disposing of (Japan's) bad loans was vital for its economy to recover," Taku Yamasaki, secretary general of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, told reporters after a meeting with the US central bank chief.

"He also said Japan's monetary easing can succeed only with the disposal of the bad loans," Yamasaki said.

In March, Japan's central bank adopted a policy of trying to keep short-term money market interest rates effectively at zero by targeting the volume of current account deposits parked at the Bank of Japan.

Yamasaki, Takeshi Noda of the New Conservative Party, and Tetsuzo Fuyushiba of the New Komeito Party—the three secretaries-general of Japan's ruling coalition parties—were in Washington to meet top-level US officials.

The administration of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has said that one of its top priorities is to help the nation's banks resolve the issue of huge bad loans. The bad loan burden is a legacy of Japan's asset bubble, which burst in the early 1990s and pitched the economy into a quagmire from which it has not yet emerged. *Reuters*

US jobless claims climb; risks of recession rise

WASHINGTON—More Americans lined up for first-time unemployment benefits last week and ongoing claims hit 7-1/2 year highs, the government said Thursday, while another report said the risks of a US recession had risen.

In one of a slew of gloomy reports, the labor department said first-time claims rose for the third straight week to 419,000 in the week ended May 26, up from 411,000 the previous week and the highest level in a month.

Some 2.85 million people continued to collect unemployment benefits last week, the largest amount since November 1993 and an increase from 2.76 million in the previous week.

Analysts said the report, which came a day ahead of the key May payrolls data, was a sign the labor market was deteriorating, a potentially dangerous development as the shaky US economy attempts to climb onto solid ground.

"Certainly, the recent data counteracts hopes that the labor market was beginning to find bottom," Advisors Financial Center chief economist Charles Lieberman said.

The claims data sparked a rally in Treasury prices as investors bet that the erosion in the labor market would spur the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates when its policy-setting committee meets next month.

Treasury prices got another boost after the National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago reported later in the morning that its Chicagoland Business Barometer fell in May to a seasonally adjusted 38.7 from 38.9 in the previous month.

An index below 50 signals a contracting manufacturing sector, while a reading above 50 suggests expansion.

In yet another grim report, the Chicago Fed said although it remained unlikely the US economy had slid into a recession, chances of such a contraction rose last month.

The National Activity Index slid to -1.09 in April from -0.87 in March. The figure was the weakest since the economy began slowing in July and marked the 10th straight month the index remained below zero, an indication of below-trend growth.

The three-month moving average index, which irons out month-to-month fluctuations, also fell, reaching -0.96 in April, down slightly from 0.94 in the previous month.

The three-month index has dropped below -0.70 during only six periods since 1967, the start of the Chicago Fed's data, and only one of those times did the economy skirt recession, commonly defined as two straight quarters of contraction.

But the Chicago Fed said the April reading continues to be above levels hit during the five recessions the United States suffered in the last four decades, but said the three-month average indicates a growing recession risk. *Reuters*

IMF says it isn't leaving Indonesia

SINGAPORE—The International Monetary Fund has "not walked out on Indonesia" and is anxious to complete its latest review of aid to the troubled country, IMF first deputy managing director Stanley Fischer said Friday.

Fischer said two of the three main sticking points—the budget deficit, securities sales and the central bank's role—had been resolved, leaving Bank Indonesia's independence as the lone issue.

Fischer was speaking to reporters after giving a speech to academics and bankers in Singapore.

Indonesia, racked by political uncertainty over the future of embattled President Abdurrahman Wahid and severe economic malaise since Asia's economic crisis of 1997-98, has had a rocky relationship with the IMF.

Rizal Ramli, the country's chief economics minister, launched a furious attack against the IMF on May 25, accusing it of blackmailing the government over a controversial central bank law and failing in its own job.

The two sides have been at loggerheads since late last year as the IMF insists on a raft of reforms before it will release fresh loans, which will, in turn, trigger more foreign aid.

The IMF's Indonesia representative, John Dodsworth, told Reuters last month Jakarta had met almost all conditions to kick-start talks for a new loan except for the central bank law. *Reuters*

Hutchison books $4B in profit

HONG KONG—Hong Kong conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. said it would book about HK$30 billion (US$3.85 billion) in profit from the takeover of VoiceStream Wireless by Deutsche Telecom AG.

Hutchison had an 18.4-percent stake in Voicestream.

Hutchison said it had received a total of about US$5.1 billion, split into cash of about US$885 million and about US$206.6 million Deutsche Telekom shares.

Lehman Brothers analyst Philip Tulk said the amount was "basically in line with market expectations." *AFP*

Firestone asks US to probe Ford Explorers

WASHINGTON—The fight between Ford Motor Co. and Firestone re-ignited on Thursday with the tire maker asking the government to investigate certain models of the Ford Explorer, the hugely popular sport-utility vehicle at the center of last year's massive recall of Firestone tires.

The request by Firestone chief executive John Lampe followed the auto giant's announcement last week that it would replace 13 million Firestone Wilderness AT tires on all its vehicles at a cost of $3 billion.

The day before that announcement, Firestone severed its nearly 100-year-old relationship with Ford in a break described by some observers as the start of a "nasty divorce."

Lampe cited an independent study of Explorers in making the request for a federal probe during a meeting with Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and officials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, according to Firestone and government officials.

"We ask NHTSA to investigate to determine the cause of the serious safety issue with a substantial segment of Ford Explorers, and to take the necessary steps to remedy the potential defect so as to protect motor vehicle safety," Lampe wrote in a letter to Robert Shelton, the acting administrator of the safety agency.

Ford aggressively defended the top-selling SUV, saying in a statement that "real world data also show the Explorer is one of the safest vehicles on the road."

The company's chief of North American vehicle operations, Martin Inglis, told Reuters in Detroit that he expected Firestone's request to be rejected. "There is nothing wrong with the Explorer," he said.

Nashville-based Firestone said its analysis showed that a "substantial segment of Ford Explorers are defectively designed," which it said put the vehicle's occupants at increased risk after tire blowouts.

The independent analysis involved the 1996 Ford Explorer 4-door 4X2 and the 2000 Ford Explorer 4-door 4X2. Other SUV makes and models were also included in the analysis for comparison.

The tests were directed over the last month by Dennis Guenther, an Ohio State University professor and consulting engineer who often appears on behalf of manufacturers in lawsuits. The SUV analysis, according to Firestone, will continue.

According to Firestone, Guenther found that in most circumstances certain Explorer models will experience an "oversteer" condition following a tread separation on a rear tire. The tire company said the Explorer's handling was "imprecise" and "unpredictable" in that circumstance.

Lampe said in a statement separate from his letter that tires can and do fail, but stressed that such an event should not be potentially deadly.

"When tires fail, either from a tread separation or a road hazard or other causes, drivers should be able to pull over, not rollover," Lampe said.

A senior Transportation Department official said the government would review the data before deciding whether to proceed with an investigation. The official said there were "boxes and boxes" of material to cover. *Reuters*

Microsoft accused of extending monopoly

WASHINGTON—Microsoft, amid of one of its most ambitious product launching campaigns ever, is facing fresh criticism that it is seeking to extend its monopoly influence despite a pending court-ordered breakup.

Microsoft chair Bill Gates said Thursday in unveiling the company's new Office XP software suite would lead of a "wave of productivity gains" for computer users.

The sixth version of the software, which includes the company's word processor, spreadsheet and other programs, would "unlock hidden knowledge (and) transform personal productivity, enabling people to easily access the data they need, capture and share team information and work more efficiently," Gates said in a statement.

Microsoft is seeking to move beyond simply software to a range of consumer and business services that would be accessible over the Internet.

"The work we're doing will allow the PC to go to the next level," president and chief operating officer Rick Belluzzo said recently.

"It's about bringing the Web and Windows together."

In addition to Office XP, Microsoft is working on an upcoming launch of its new Windows XP operating system. The company recently launched its first-ever gaming console other new software products it hope will revive the slumping PC market.

Separately, Microsoft launched a 50-million-dollar campaign to try to lure customers of America Online to its MSN Internet service in the wake of the recent price increase announced by AOL.

And a recent survey by the market research group StatMarket found that Microsoft's MSN has crept ahead of several rivals into the No. 2 spot for use as an Internet portal among US Web surfers. Yahoo remains the leader in this category. *AFP*

Napster to face music

SAN FRANCISCO—Napster has been ordered to show up at a hearing next week by a federal judge who has warned that she would shut down the music swapping website if it cannot keep copyrighted music off its network.

US District Court Judge Marilyn Hall Patel has summoned Napster and lawyers from the world's leading record labels into court here next Wednesday for a compliance hearing, according to the judge's website.

The hearing is to determine if Napster has been able to screen hundreds of thousands of songs the record labels claim are copyrighted and are being illegally traded over the Redwood City, California site.

Napster has been sued by the record labels for aiding in wholesale copyright infringement.

Patel earlier this year ordered the site to immediately take the copyrighted songs off the site. In April, Patel, her voice rising in anger, called Napster's efforts to filter those titles "disgraceful."

At that hearing, she threatened to shut down the popular site if it cannot comply with her order. The judge has appointed a technical adviser to help her determine if Napster is doing everything it can to keep those songs offline.

Meanwhile, Napster is facing another problem as it seeks to police its system: more users are leaving as the number of songs available diminishes.

WebNoize, an Internet consultancy, is scheduled to release a study early next week that shows a continued decline in Napster usage as it screens popular titles from its site.

"The number of files traded on the site continues to drop," said Matt Bailey of WebNoize. In April, the consultancy said file swapping had dropped by 36 percent, and Bailey said his company would report an even larger decline for May. *AFP*

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Republic of the Philippines
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NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 40, Manila

IN RE PETITION FOR THE LEGITIMATION OF THE BIRTH OF JHUAN BESMONTE LAHM AND FOR THE CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF JUAN BESMONTE LAHM, LAURA B. LAHM,
Petitioner,
- versus - SP. PROC. NO. 01100553
THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MANILA AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE,
Respondents.
x---------------------------------------x

ORDER

In the instant verified petition, petitioner prays, inter alia, that after due notice, publication and hearing, a judgment be rendered declaring JHUAN BESMONTE LAHM a legitimated child of spouses Bernd Lahm and Laura Besmonte Lahm and directing the Civil Registrar of the City of Manila and the National Statistics Office to cause the correction of entry in the Certificate of Live Birth of Jhuan Besmonte Lahm as follows.

Date of Marriage of Parents from
February 10, 1992 to July 29, 1993.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, set the same for hearing on July 17, 2001 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Branch at Rooms 525-526, 5th Floor, Manila City Hall.

Let a copy of this Order be published, at the expense of the petitioner once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila, to be selected by raffle pursuant to P.D 1079.

The City Civil Registrar of Manila, through the Office of the Solicitor General, and any person having or claiming any interest under the entry, the correction of which is sought or for the prayed declaration of legitimation, may within fifteen (15) days from notice of the petition or from the last date of publication of such notice, file an opposition thereto. Serve the Office of the Solicitor General and the City Civil Registrar of Manila as well as the National Statistics Office with copies of this petition.

Furnish petitioner, her counsel, the Civil Registrar of the City of Manila, the National Statistics Office and the Office of the Solicitor General with this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Manila, April 16, 2001.

(Sgd.) HERMINIA V. PASAMBA
Acting Presiding Judge

PDI - June 2, 9 & 16, 2001

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Notice is given that the estate of the late **ENRIQUE M. BRODETH** was settled extrajudicially by an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication by the sole heir, as per Doc. No. 605, Page No. 40, Book No. II, Series of 2001 of Quezon City Notary Public Atty. Arturo M. Martin.
(PDI-May 19, 26 & Jun 2, '01)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Fernando Z. Vicente has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. 109; Page 23; Book XII; Series of 2001 bef. Not. Pub. A. A. Cecilia C. Macatangay-Avila of Pasay City. (PDI- June 2,9, &16 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Notice is given that Alien Certificate of Registration issued to **Mr. Chung Geun Park**, Korean citizen, was lost last April 4, 2001. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. In case found, please call Wilma @8209898.
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CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICE

The Public Bidding will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **June 29, 2001** at the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Social Hall, Philippine Sugar Center Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

Pre-qualification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Annex Building, SRA Compound starting **June 5, 2001**. Deadline for submission is on **June 11, 2001.**

Bid forms at Php100.00/set shall be issued by the Secretariat to prequalified bidders on **June 18, 2001**.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidder's bond either in Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check or GSIS bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price.

SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the bid most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI – June 2,3 & 4, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-5057 • 372-5043
Fax Nos. 372-5048 • 372-5061

INVITATION TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following item not later than 2:00 p.m. on **June 18, 2001**.

ITEM/S TO BID:

10	btls	LHRHa Luteinizing Hormone Releasing Hormone
	-	Various Aqua Feeds
	-	Various Construction supplies & Materials

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photo copies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI - June 2, 2001)

PHILIPPINE SHIN-EI INC.

Is in need of **ENGINEERS**, must be

- Male
- Not more than 27 years of age
- With experience in handling WIRE-CUT electric-discharge machine

REQUIREMENTS

- Comprehensive Resumé with photo
- Police Clearance and Barangay Clearance
- Transcript of Records
- Diploma
- SSS (E-1)
- Certification

COMPENSATION BASED ON QUALIFICATION

Interested parties may inquire at these numbers:

Tel. No. **(045) 599-5807 to 12**
Telefax **(045) 599-5814**
E-mail **shin-ei@comclark.com**

Or apply in person at **PHILIPPINE SHIN-EI INC.,**
M.A. Roxas Highway, Clark Special Economic Zone,
Clark Field, Pampanga

Look for: **MS. MARY GRACE D. REYES**

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED PRIME SAVINGS BANK, INC. (PSBI)

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will conduct its final receiving of claims for insured deposits in the closed Prime Savings Bank, Inc. (PSBI) on July 2, 2001. Relative thereto, depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), where PDIC representatives are stationed, to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Duration of Travel	Claims Processing Site	PSBI Office/ Branch	LBP Servicing Branch
I – NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CLUSTER			
June 6 to July 2, 2001	Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation PDIC Building # 228 Chino Roces Ave. Makati City	Head Office Caloocan EDSA – Pasay El Cano Ermita Makati Cubao Del Monte EDSA – Shaw New Manila Quezon Avenue San Juan Commonwealth Fairview Novaliches Bacoor Las Piñas Sucat Cavite City	EDSA Greenhills Kalookan Masagana Citimall Intramuros YMCA Manila Pasong Tamo Cubao Roosevelt Shaw Blvd Broadway West Triangle San Juan Commonwealth Commonwealth Novaliches Pamplona Las Piñas Sucat Cavite
June 6 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Antipolo # 37 P. Burgos St., San Jose, Antipolo, Rizal	Cainta - Brookside Cainta - West Pasig	Cainta Marcos Highway Kapasigan
II – NORTHERN/CENTRAL LUZON CLUSTER			
June 26 to July 2, 2001	# 151- B Mc Arthur Highway, Marulas, Valenzuela	Marilao Valenzuela	Meycauayan, Bulacan Valenzuela
June 26 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Baliuag Barrera Street, Poblacion, Baliuag, Bulacan	Baliuag	Baliuag, Bulacan
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Rumings Building McArthur Highway, Dolores	Angeles Dolores	Angeles City San Fdo., Pampanga
June 26 to July 2, 2001	2/F JLQ Building, Arellano St., Camiling, Tarlac	Camiling	Camiling, Tarlac
June 26 to July 2, 2001	M.H. del Pilar St., San Nicolas, Tarlac	Tarlac	Tarlac City
June 21 to July 2, 2001	# 4 Tecson Building Gen. Luna St., Cabanatuan City	Cabanatuan Gapan	Cabanatuan Gapan, Nueva Ecija
June 14 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Sta. Barbara Poblacion Sur, Sta. Barbara Pangasinan	Urdaneta	Urdaneta
June 14 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Sta. Barbara Poblacion Sur, Sta. Barbara Pangasinan	Calasiao	Dagupan City
June 21 to July 2, 2001	# 100 Victoria Village, 2nd Road Quezon Hills, Baguio City	Baguio	Baguio
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Formerly Maritime School Mabini St., Catbangin, San Fernando, La Union	La Union	San Fdo, La Union
June 26 to July 2, 2001	2/F Melchora Building Corner Acosta & M.H.Del Pilar Sts. Laoag City	Laoag	Laoag
June 19 to July 2, 2001	Blk 9 Lot 7 Rizal Village, Santiago City	Santiago	Santiago
June 19 to July 2, 2001	# 14 B. Bassig St., Ugac Norte Tuguegarao	Tuguegarao	Tuguegarao, Cagayan
III – SOUTHERN LUZON CLUSTER			
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Orient Bank – San Pedro Old National Highway, San Pedro, Laguna	Biñan Muntinlupa	Biñan, Laguna Muntinlupa
June 21 to July 2, 2001	Unit 4, Grnd. Floor Rivera Bldg. # 42 Hilltop, Sitio Hilltop, Kumintang, Ibaba, Batangas City	Batangas Lipa	Batangas Lipa
June 26 to July 2, 2001	UNISAVE – Calamba 4/F Unisave Building, Purok 1, Calamba, Laguna	Calamba	Calamba, Laguna
June 21 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – San Pablo P. Burgos St. cor. Lopez Jaena St. San Pablo City	Lucena San Pablo	Lucena San Pablo
June 14 to July 2, 2001	# 468-A Pecson Building Rizal St, Cabangan, Legazpi City	Legazpi Naga	Legazpi Naga
June 7 to July 2, 2001	2/F Formacal Building Burgos St., Sorsogon, Sorsogon	Sorsogon	Sorsogon
IV – VISAYAS CLUSTER			
June 28 to July 2, 2001	Jejana Building IV Lopez Jaena St., Jaro, Iloilo	Iloilo	Jaro, Iloilo
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Countrywide RB of La Carlota corner Lizares and Lacson Sts., Bacolod	Bacolod	Bacolod
June 21 to July 2, 2001	A.S. Fortuna III Building A.C. Cortez Ave., cor. Plaridel St. Mandaue City	Cebu-Banilad Cebu-Mandaue	Banilad, Ext. Office Mandaue, Ext. Office
June 28 to July 2, 2001	Deonaldo's Residence Orchids St., Daro, Dumaguete City	Dumaguete	Dumaguete
June 28 to July 2, 2001	Grnd. Flr. G. Villasis Bldg., Rizal Avenue, Tacloban City	Tacloban	Tacloban
V – MINDANAO CLUSTER			
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Ong Building, Santiago Blvd, General Santos City	General Santos Marbel	General Santos (Pioneer) Koronadal (Roxas)
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Unit 6 Jofelmore Building, Mortola St., Cagayan de Oro	Cagayan de Oro	Capistrano
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Unit 6 Jofelmore Building, Mortola St., Cagayan de Oro	Iligan	Iligan
June 7 to July 2, 2001	3/F Pacific Bank Building R. Magsaysay corner Bangoy Sts., Davao City	Davao- Agdao Davao- Magsaysay Davao- Magallanes	Davao (Recto) Davao (Recto) Davao (San Pedro)
June 26 to July 2, 2001	# 562 San Jose Road, Baliwasan Grande Zamboanga City	Zamboanga	Zamboanga (Main)

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

1. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook, certificate of time deposits, latest bank statement, unused check)
2. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.

[illegible] visions of R.A. 3591 as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Prime Savings [illegible] 2, 2001. After July 2, 2001, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the closed PSBI.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – June 2 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines, Telephone 925-2401

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bid for one (1) unit: Gas Sterilizer, non-toxic.

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding. List of requirements to be submitted:

1. Letter of intent
2. Article of incorporation and by-laws
3. Business License
4. Financial Statement (last 2 years)
5. ITR for the last 2 years
6. Location map of office
7. DOH Accreditation
8. List of clients and contact person
9. Product list with certificate of exclusive distributorship and brochure
10. Certificate of trainings for service engineers
11. Notarized certificate of authority to sign and represent the company
12. Certificate of major parts availability

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before June 18, 2001 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI – May 25, 26, 27, June 1, 2 & 3, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
METROSTAR EXPRESS

INVITATION TO BID

The DOTC-MRT 3 Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested bidders/suppliers to prequalify and bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

14 units of Computers Pentium 4
1 unit of Notebook Computer Pentium 4

Issuance of accreditation requirements can be obtained upon payment of non-refundable fee of P100.00 to the Administrative Division, DOTC-MRT 3 Depot, North Avenue cor. EDSA, North Triangle Area, Quezon City. Submission of duly accomplished and notarized pre-qualification documents shall not be later than 5:00 p.m., June 29, 2001.

Bid documents and complete specifications are available for issuance upon payment of P500.00, which is not refundable, and upon presentation of Notice of Invitation and Certificate of Accreditation.

The DOTC-MRT 3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids of the bids proposals without offering any reason, wiave any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. This office, likewise, assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MARIO C. MIRANDA
Acting General Manager
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - May 30 June 2 & 4 2001)

LIVELIHOOD & INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION!!!

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FOR BETTER SERVICING, WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR:

BUSINESS CENTER OPERATORS (BCO)

(20 BCOs for MMLA, 2 BCOs each for other cities & 1 BCO each for big municipalities)

Requirements & Qualifications:

1. **Letter of Intent with personal & business informations.**
2. **Adequate office space & facilities for the meetings/trainings of at least 20 persons at any given time.**
3. **Online computer/s (we will supply if you have none), telephone & communications facilities.**
4. **At least P120, 000.00 operating cash & delivery facilities; one full-time staff.**

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Unit 823 City & Land Megaplaza, ADB Ave.,Ortigas Complex
1605 Pasig City

Telefax No.: (02) 687-43-11
E-mail: *risephilippines@hotmail.com*
Text: 0919-212-3230 / 0919-592-4258

ALL CONSUMERS WHO ARE INTERESTED TO EARN ADDITIONAL MONTHLY INCOME, & LOCAL SUPPLIERS MAY VISIT/CALL THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS CENTER OPERATIONS (BCOs):

METRO MANILA
RISE PHILS. CO. LTD.
Unit 823 Megaplaza (back of Robinsons Galleria)
Ortigas Complex, Pasig City
Tel. No. 687-43-11

MARIKINA CITY
LILIAN REYES REALTY
155G I. Mendoza St.,
San Roque, Marikina City
Tel. No. 646-8452

WESTERN VISAYAS/PANAY ISLAND
Mr. William (Bogs) Ferolino
RISE PHILS. MULTIRICH CORPORATION
2nd Flr. AMIGO PLAZA, Iznart St.
5000 Iloilo City
Telefax: (033)337-92-52 / Text: 0917-514-1369

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF CLOSED BANKS

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolutions (MBR) issued on various dates placing the following banks under liquidation, notice is hereby given to all creditors of these banks, including depositors and those whose claims are under litigation, to file their claims within six months from June 2, 2001 either with the Office of the Liquidator at the PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), Makati City or at the respective offices of the closed banks.

MBR No.	Date	Name of Closed Bank	Address
729	10-May-01	Rural Bank of E.B. Magalona (Neg. Occ.), Inc.	E.B. Magalona St., Poblacion, E.B. Magalona, Negros Occidental
730	10-May-01	Community Rural Bank of Dingle (Iloilo), Inc.	Dalipe St., Poblacion, Dingle, Iloilo
690	03-May-01	Rural Bank of San Pascual (Batangas), Inc.	Poblacion, San Pascual, Batangas
690	03-May-01	Rural Bank of Bocaue (Bulacan), Inc.	Binang 2nd, Bocaue, Bulacan
690	03-May-01	Rural Bank of Gumaca (Quezon), Inc.	#52 P.Burgos St., Gumaca, Quezon
690	03-May-01	Rural Bank of Dinalupihan (Bataan), Inc.	No. 8, Burgos St., Poblacion, Dinalupihan, Bataan
585	10-Apr-01	Second Bulacan Development Bank, Inc.	McArthur Highway, Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan
546	05-Apr-01	Rural Bank of Urbiztondo (Pangasinan), Inc.	Urbiztondo, Pangasinan
310	22-Feb-01	Cooperative Bank of Davao City, Inc.	A. Pichon St., Davao City
17	05-Jan-01	Rural Bank of Concepcion (Tarlac), Inc.	San Nicolas, Concepcion, Tarlac
2239	28-Dec-00	Rural Bank of Santander (Cebu), Inc.	Poblacion, Santander, Cebu
2047	24-Nov-00	Rural Bank of Calatrava (Negros Occ.), Inc.	Poblacion, Calatrava, Negros Occidental
1537	08-Sep-00	Rural Bank of Abra de Ilog (Occ. Mindoro), Inc.	Vasquez St., Poblacion, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro
1537	08-Sep-00	Rural Bank of Palayan City (Nueva Ecija), Inc.	Caballero St., Palayan City
1375	11-Aug-00	Rural Bank of Morong (Rizal), Inc.	Cor. T.Claudio & A.Natividad Sts., Morong, Rizal
1375	11-Aug-00	Rural Bank of Manaoag (Pangasinan), Inc.	Manaoag, Pangasinan
1325	04-Aug-00	Rural Bank of Barbaza (Antique), Inc.	Poblacion, Barbaza, Antique
965	09-Jun-00	Rural Bank of San Jacinto (Pangasinan), Inc.	San Jacinto, Pangasinan

Claim forms are available, free of charge, at the Office of the Liquidator and at the closed banks' offices. A copy of the complaint should be attached to the claims under litigation.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – June 2, 2001)

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NATIVIDAD SUNICO ELEIZEGUI

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 22, 2001 at the age of 98
in Vancouver, Canada.

Her bereaved family, daughters **Maria Paz** and **Carmen**; son **Thomas**; daughter-in-law **Anna Rita**; sons-in-law **Larry Weir** and **Santiago Laureano**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be brought to the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati on June 4th.

Interment will be on June 5th after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

In Loving Memory
On the First Death Anniversary of

DIR. ROGELIO O. ANDRADA

Who joined his Creator on June 2, 2000

His family requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul and to remember him always in their prayers.

Holy Masses will be offered in his memory every Sunday for the whole month of June at the following churches he frequently visited during his "*Visita de Iglesia*":

Our Lady of Loreto Parish	**5:00 AM**
Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, UST	**6:00 AM**
San Sebastian Parish Church	**7:00 AM**
Santo Domingo Church	**7:00 AM**
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine	**8:00 AM**
San Miguel Church	**9:00 AM**
St. Anthony's Shrine	**9:30 AM**
Baclaran Church	**9:00 AM**

"For in memory nothing
can be made apart..." - RTA

QUEENIE ARCACHE MELVIN

Peace, my heart, let the time for parting be sweet,
let it not be a death but completeness.
Let love melt into a memory and pain into songs.
Let the flight through the sky end in the folding of the wings over the nest.
Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night.
Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment, and say your last words in silence.
I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.
- Rabindranath Tagore

Our beloved Mom, we celebrate your life by honoring your birth on May 28 and remembering your passing on June 2, 1999. The love you gave us is instilled deep within our hearts and we miss you more and more each day...

We adore you, Mom
Your loving children

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

VICTOR "SAXO" CRUZ NAVASERO, JR.

August 2, 1933 – May 29, 2001
UPSILON BATCH '55

His loving wife **Guia Bucks**; children and grandchildren; **Victor III** and **Nani Icasiano** & Brian; **Ghizelle** and **Tim Miguel** & Joshua, Dominic and Isabela; **Michelle** and **Edu Mendoza** & Emico; **Hazel** and **Mitch de Padua** & Antonio, Mikael and Bianca; and **Romano** and **Mona Javier** & Nicole and Simone; Brothers and in-laws **Hector** and **Sylvia Arnaldo**, **Nestor** and **Evelyn Palmiano**, **Ador** and **Carmen Culanag**; sister **Luz Amandolina** "*Mandy*", **Gary** and **Delia Sales** and **Ding**; nephews, nieces, grand nephews and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish inside the UPLB campus, College, Laguna, with daily Mass at 8:00 p.m.

The UPSILON Rites by the UPLB Upsilon residents will be offered to Brod Saxo on Saturday, June 2, 2001, 7:00 p.m.

A Holy Mass will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, June 3, 2001. Interment will follow at the Los Baños Memorial Garden.

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"You will forever be in our hearts, Mommy."

Atty. GLORIFICACION LABIO BELTRAN

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 31, 2001 at the age of 66.

Her loving husband ENGR. CLEMENCIO P. BELTRAN; Only child ROMMEL L. BELTRAN. Her loving sisters CONSUELO L. ABIJAY and PAZ L. CARPIO (†); relatives and friends mourn her passing and wish her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at Miraculous Medal Parish Church, Project 4, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 3, 2001 (Sunday) at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after 8:00 AM services.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

CARIDAD PORTILLA BALLESTAMON

of General Trias, Cavite and San Fernando, Pampanga
who passed away in the grace of our Lord on May 24, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
• DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
• FREE OBIT DESIGN •

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO BID

SALE OF VEHICLES AT SSS MAIN OFFICE

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the sale of nine (9) units vehicle at the SSS Main Building on an "as is, where is basis".

Type	Year Acquired	Minimum Bid Price
Serviceable:		
• Mitsubishi Pajero	1996	P 600,000.00
• Ford Expedition XLT	1999	P 1,300,000.00
Unserviceable:		
• Toyota Lite Ace 5K	1992	P 25,000.00
• Nissan California Car	1988	P 10,000.00
• Kia Ceres 4x2 Hspur	1991	P 5,000.00
• Toyota Mini Cruiser		P 1,500.00
• Toyota Mini Cruiser		P 1,000.00
• Toyota Mini Cruiser		P 1,000.00
• Toyota Mini Cruiser		P 1,000.00

Bid form must be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers **922-2991** and **920-6401** local **2379/2380**. Pre-bid conference will be held on **June 14, 2001** at 2:00 p.m., Bidding Room, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building.

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **HORACIO T. TEMPLO**
Executive Vice-President
& Chairman, Pre-qualification,
Bidding & Award Committee

(PDI - June 2, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY
Sogod, Southern Leyte

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

A. The Southern Leyte State College of Science and Technology, Sogod, Southern Leyte is inviting qualified contractors (Small B) to pre-qualify and bid the proposed construction of SLSCST Two-Storey Administration Building, Phase II.

B. Pre-C Forms, Bid documents as well as other informations are available at the PBAC Secretariat c/o PBAC Chairman, SLSCST, Sogod, Southern Leyte upon submission of the following: 1. Letter of Intent 2. PCAB License 3. Certification of Completion and Acceptance of Contract Agreement of completed projects and 4. Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

C. Working Plan (blue print) shall be released to pre-qualified contractors upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,000.00 only from authorized representative with authorization from the owner/board.

D. Schedule of Activities:

1. Pre-qualification ....June 14, 2001
2. Issuance of Bid Documents ....June 21, 2001
3. Pre-bidding Conference .... July 12, 2001
4. Submission of Pre-C and Bid Documents ...... July 26, 2001

E. SLSCST reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any defect herein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

For more information, please contact Valerio B. Cabalo, PBAC Chairman or Monina S. Solis PBAC Executive Officer/Secretary. Tel. Nos. 053-382-2003, 053-382-3294.

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO L. MANALO**
President

(PDI – May 31, June 2 & 4, 2001)

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TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Croco-gator

Q. What's the difference between a crocodile and an alligator?

A. The crocodile and alligator, although they look very similar, actually have a few distinct differences. For one, the alligator has a broader head and a rounder snout. Their lower teeth can fit inside the edge of their upper jaw and cannot be seen when the mouth is closed. Unlike the alligator, the fourth tooth in each side of the lower jaw of the crocodile is always visible. In both reptiles though, the teeth are used for seizing and holding prey instead of chewing. Their teeth are constantly being replaced as new ones grow in and push out the old ones.

Also, the crocodile is usually larger in physical structure than the alligator. Adult crocodiles can range from seven feet to thirty feet (two to nine meters) long, but the alligator can only reach up to twenty feet (six meters). Their average is six to eight feet in length.

For the Record. Crocodiles have no sweat glands: They lose heat through their mouths, and sometimes pant like dogs to keep cool. When lunging for fish, crocodiles close a valve in their nostrils to avoid inhaling water. How does a baby crocodile break out of its egg? With a special hard tip on its snout.

Past Forward. This day in 1953: Twenty-seven-year-old princess Elizabeth Alexandra May was crowned Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Ireland. The Archbishop of Canterbury solemnly lowered Crown of St. Edward on to her head in a scene of ritual pomp and splendor at London's Westminster Abbey. She succeeded her father, King George VI, who died on February 6.

WORD WATCH

Gyneolatry (guy nee ol uh tree) : the worship of women.

PDI – June 2, 2001

Experts discuss new direction in treating high blood pressure

BY THE CHARTER BUREAU

SAN FRANCISCO, California—More than 4,000 specialists in hypertension worldwide including 20 Filipino physicians gathered here recently to discuss new findings and make recommendations on how to control the feared cardiovascular epidemic brought about by hypertension-related complications.

The event was the 16th annual meeting of the American Society of Hypertension. The ASH is the largest organization in the United States devoted exclusively to hypertension and related cardiovascular diseases. It is committed to alerting physicians, allied health professionals and the public about new medical options, facts, research findings and treatment choices designed to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

It is estimated that 18-20 percent of the world population has high blood pressure (BP). Commonly referred to as the silent killer, untreated hypertension prematurely ages the body's arteries and can lead to strokes, heart attacks and kidney failure, often without warning.

Among the important topics discussed in the four-day convention were cardiovascular outcomes with treatment; high blood pressure in children and adolescents; the impact of hormone replacement therapy on cardiovascular risk; treatment of the elderly hypertensive; and genomic approach in hypertension therapy.

Cardiovascular outcome, specific therapy

Controlling BP is more important than the specific type of drug used in lowering the risk of adverse cardiovascular events, according to a new study presented in the ASH meeting.

Jan Staessen, MD, PhD, and his colleagues at the University of Leuven in Belgium conducted a meta-analysis of nine trials involving 62,605 hypertensive patients who were randomized to either the newer or older drugs. Compared with diuretics and beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors offered similar overall cardiovascular protection.

In a second step of the study, Dr. Staesson and colleagues analyzed the results of 27 trials involving 136,124 patients. They found that the benefit produced by certain drugs as noted in recently published clinical trials could be explained by differences in their BP reduction, particularly the systolic BP, which is now considered a more accurate predictor of cardiovascular risk in middle-aged and elderly individuals than the diastolic BP.

Systolic BP, the first of the two BP readings, is the measurement of the pressure in the blood vessels when the heart is pumping. Diastolic BP, the second reading, measures the pressure when the heart is at rest.

Hypertension in children and adolescents

Researchers report that high BP in children and adolescents is on the rise and it suggests an imminent cardiovascular epidemic.

"We found a higher prevalence of hypertension in children and adolescents than has been previously reported," said Jonathan Sorof, MD, co-director of the Houston Pediatric and Adolescent Hypertension Program at the University of Texas, Medical School. "The prevalence of hypertension was strongly linked to obesity, another risk factor for cardiovascular disease. In combination, these risk factors suggest that we may very well be on the verge of an explosion of cardiovascular disease as these children and adolescents enter adulthood," added Dr. Sorof.

Among students available for follow-up screening, the overall estimated prevalence of hypertension in this young population was 9.5 percent. Dr. Sorof noted that, similar to adults, elevated systolic BP accounted for the majority of high BP in the students.

Dr. Jose Villaroman, a consultant at the Philippine Heart Center and one of the Filipino delegates who attended the convention, said the findings of Dr. Sorof's is a strong support to the recommendation that BP screening should be pursued more aggressively and should include children and adolescents. "People with high BP and hypertension-related problems are getting younger and younger, and they are not spared from the serious complications of hypertension," Dr. Villaroman warned.

Hormone replacement therapy, cardiovascular risk

More clinical trials are still needed to help resolve the issue if hormone replacement therapy (HRT) can reduce cardiovascular risk in women.

"Estrogen's role in vascular biology and clinical medicine continues to evolve," said Suzanne Oparil, MD, director of the Vascular Biology and Hypertension Research Program at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Dr. Oparil added that until results of large clinical trials are out, the medical community would have to wait for a definitive answer to the HRT issue. She noted that several previous studies were limited and raised more questions instead of providing answers.

"A medical controversy exists regarding the risks and benefits of HRT," she said explaining that some studies support the use of HRT in postmenopausal women, particularly those with cardiovascular risk factors. However, she also noted that other studies showed opposite results, even suggesting an early harm and delayed benefits in cardiovascular outcomes in women with established coronary heart disease.

Treating the elderly hypertensive

Physicians must overcome their reluctance to treat high BP in people over 80 years and older to help reduce strokes, heart failure and disability, urged Prof. Marvin Moser, MD, former chair of the joint national committee on detection, evaluation and treatment of high blood pressure.

"Treating octogenarians who have high BP clearly reduces disability," said Professor Moser. "Sadly, fewer than 10 percent of hypertensive octogenarians are receiving treatment and many of them are not being treated effectively."

Professor Moser explained that while lowering BP may not increase longevity in the 80 and older group, it will help them live with less fear of suffering a stroke or heart failure. "Studies clearly show that treating octogenarians results in significant reduction of 28 percent in stroke, 44 percent in heart failure and 14 percent in overall cardiovascular events," added Professor Moser.

Filipino cardiologist Dr. Jose Villaroman, however, warned that rapid aggressive BP lowering in the elderly can also cause serious side-effects such as postural hypotension or excessive lowering of the BP when standing up. "The BP should be lowered gradually to as low as possible, with the physician carefully adjusting the dose of the patient's medication to avoid adverse side-effects," Dr. Villaroman recommended.

Gemonic approach in therapy

Mapping and sequencing the human genome has the potential to revolutionize drug development and offer unique approaches in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of hypertension and associated target-organ diseases.

This was the optimistic prediction of Stephen Turner, MD, professor of Medicine at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. "The potential of genomics could help predict a patient's response to antihypertensive therapy as well as unlock the mysteries of molecular mechanisms responsible for elevating BP. We are also looking at the possibility of designing therapies that are less toxic, more specific and effective for individual patients," explained Prof. Turner.

He said individualized drug therapy would expand beyond the current "one size fits all" approach. He explained that the challenge is identifying disease genes that influence disease predilection and drug response. In effect, genomics will identify the causative mechanism, predisposition to complications and response to appropriate treatment of the individual hypertensive patient.

(Charter is the acronym for Clinical Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Research on Therapies, Epidemiology and Risk-management, a research foundation that evaluates the impact of risk factors and interventions, particularly lifestyle modification, on heart, lung and other diseases. For inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

Still more math puzzles

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

AS IF the Christmas Challenge (Dec. 25, 2000) and the Butchers and Cows Problem (Feb. 10, 2001) are not enough, readers, such as Panay National High School [clanhs@capznet.mozcom.com], are clamoring for more math puzzles. James Lactao [jameslactao@edsamail.com.ph] also has the following request:

When I was in high school, I would always look forward to your articles in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine (Eureka). I always enjoyed those math problems and tips. I also happen to know a co-teacher of yours, Mida Guillermo. Anyway, I wrote to ask you for some math games, problems, drills and tips for my students. I am teaching in an all-boys school. My students are in Grades 5 and 6. Can you recommend a book for this? Also, is there a way I can get reprints of your past Eureka articles? Thanks.

I am gratified to note that you still remember my Eureka columns of old. They have been compiled in 1995 into a book, titled what else—"Eureka! Thoughts on Math," published by Anvil. It should be available in National Bookstore and Powerbooks. If you do not have a branch near you, please write me again. It contains math tips, puzzles and stories for students, including some for grade school students. You may also want to get hold of my 1991 book "Straight Talk on Everyday Mysteries," which contains not only math articles, but science ones as well. As for Mida, she is a good friend.

* * *

Puzzle enthusiasts are in luck. A frequent reader (and letter-sender), Alfredo Angeles of 249 St. Francis St., Oranbo, Pasig City, sent the following puzzles (complete with solutions). I suggest that everyone spend some time in trying to answer the questions before peeking at the solutions.

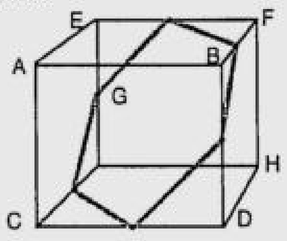
1. Is it possible to slice a cube so that the sliced side becomes an equilateral hexagon? What is the area formed by the hexagon if the cube has a side of 1?

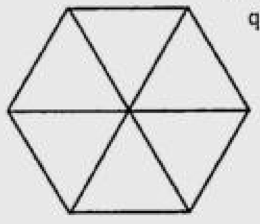
2. What is the angle formed by the 2 diagonals of a cube?

3. A man has 9 cigarettes that he wants to smoke. He can wrap the contents of 3 butts into 1 cigarette. How many cigarettes can he consume by using this method repeatedly?

Solutions:

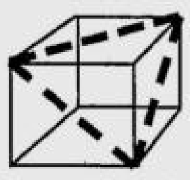
1. Yes, it is possible to slice a cube so that the sliced side becomes an equilateral hexagon. Determine the midpoints of CD, BD, BF, EF, EG and CG. Connect these points to form the sides of an equilateral hexagon. The cube may be sliced through this plane.





To find the area, note that the hexagon consists of six equilateral triangles with all sides equal to Ö2 / 2. The area of one triangle may be computed by dropping an altitude to the base of the triangle, and using the Pythagorean Theorem or trigonometric functions to determine it.

2. The angle is 60°. If the third diagonal is drawn, the figure formed is an equilateral triangle. Therefore the angle formed is 60°.



3. The answer is 13 cigarettes.

This in itself is a simple puzzle, but here is a twist: if instead of starting with 9 cigarettes to finish 13, the smoker starts with 1 additional cigarette, he can finish 15 (or 2 more than the first situation). Here's how: by smoking in this manner, when he finishes the 10 cigarettes, he will have smoked 14 cigarettes with 2 butts left. He can then look for an ashtray and borrow 1 butt to add to his 2 butts to make a new cigarette. When he finishes smoking the 15th cigarette, he may return the last butt to the ashtray.

On behalf of grateful puzzle fans, I thank Mr. Angeles for his contributions.

Bonus: Here is a physics puzzle from Jopeet Gomez [jarvix@dagupan.com]—the answer is quite simple, but intriguing. He asks:

My friend and I had an argument about the velocity of a bullet. He insists that the velocity of a bullet fired from a gun going up in the air is higher than the velocity of the bullet coming down. I think that the velocity of the bullet coming down will equal the velocity when it was fired going up. Who is correct?

Hint: What variables come to mind when you think about velocity? Does this problem need additional information? Can you draw a graph depicting the situation?

* * *

Send your queries and comments to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

Omega-3 reduces death, heart attack, stroke risks

THE PROTECTIVE effects of omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (Pufa) have been shown in a study conducted by the highly respected Italian investigators called Gruppo Italiano per lo Studio della Sopravvivenza nell' Infarto Miocardico (Gissi).

The Gissi study, published in the reputable Lancet, showed that omega-3 Pufa decreased total deaths by 40 percent, cardiovascular deaths by 30 percent and sudden deaths by 45 percent. Nonfatal heart attacks and strokes have also been significantly reduced by 20 percent.

In the same study, the effect of vitamin E on the same cardiovascular outcomes or endpoints were also evaluated, but this did not show any significant benefit.

Well-designed study

This highly scientific and well-designed study enrolled 11,324 patients surviving a heart attack (myocardial infarction) in the preceding three months. They were randomly given supplements of omega-3 Pufa or vitamin E for 3.5 years. The primary combined efficacy endpoint was deaths from all causes, nonfatal heart attacks and strokes.

The Gissi study confirmed previously reported favorable effects of Omega-3 Pufa. The scientific community's keen interest in omega-3 Pufa is based from epidemiologic studies showing an inverse relationship between consumption of fish and death from coronary artery disease (CAD).

Studies show that fish obtained from deep sea or marine water contains a high concentration of omega-3 Pufa. Omega-3 produces in the body a substance called prostacyclin, which prevents blood from being viscous and sticky. This helps prevent blood platelets from forming clots, which can cause heart attack and stroke.

Eskimo phenomenon

The Eskimo phenomenon came about in 1970 when scientists discovered that Eskimos consumed large amount of fat daily and very little fiber or fresh fruits and vegetables, yet had the lowest incidence of heart disease. It was noted that the Eskimos consumed a lot of deep-sea fishes, approximately 500 grams or a half a kilo of fish a day.

This phenomenon was tested by Professor W. Newman of New Orleans, United States, in his study evaluating arctic natives (Alaska and Greenland) and nonarctic natives as subjects. The degree of protection from coronary heart disease that a high intake of omega-3 Pufa provided was evident in the result of the study which showed significantly lower atherosclerotic lesions in the intimal surface of the aorta and coronary arteries of the natives who consumed high omega-3 Pufa.

Professor Newman's findings were presented during the convention of the European Society for Clinical Investigation (Esci) held at Cambridge, United Kingdom, in April 1995.

For almost two decades now, several committees of distinguished experts have gathered to discuss the favorable effect of omega-3 Pufa. Among these committees are the UK Department of Health, the British Nutrition Foundation, the EU Scientific Committee for Food and the World Health Organization. All have agreed on an increased intake of omega-3 as a means of reducing the risk of heart disease.

Food supplement

The beneficial effects of omega-3 Pufa are now well accepted and many doctors are recommending its regular intake as a food supplement at a dose of 2-3 softgels daily. It is particularly recommended for those with previous heart attacks and those who have risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and strong family history of heart disease. Omegabloc, a brand of omega-3 Pufa available in Mercury Drug Stores, is steadily gaining more and more demand from health buffs and health practitioners.

Distributed by Trianon International Inc., Omegabloc, 1,000 mg of omega-3 Pufa, is fast moving at all Mercury Drug stores nationwide as a heart protector and an excellent source of good cholesterol known as HDL (high density lipoproteins). It is recommended as an ideal supplement for individuals at high risk of developing heart attack and stroke such as smokers, those with high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and strong family history of heart disease. It may also help prevent deterioration of brain function.

The case of the wilting flower

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

ROSE or Rosy as some friends would call her, used to be the life of any party. She was as elegant as the flower she was named after. She exuded both charm and confidence and her bubbly personality could easily win the heart of any new acquaintance. She lived in the United States for 20 years until a year ago when she decided to come back and settle for good in the Philippines.

Rose married late but the long wait seemed to have paid off. She married a respectable American who was working in a Fortune 500 company and with whom she has a 17-year-old son. Theirs was a marriage a lot of people envied. The Filipino community where they lived looked up to them as a model couple. But two years ago, Rose and her husband divorced due to "irreconcilable differences."

Changes

Things started to change about five years ago when she turned 50, at just about the time her monthly period stopped. She started complaining of all sorts of symptoms. She got tired easily; she perspired profusely with terrible hot flashes; her heart would pound like a galloping horse; she had difficulty sleeping; and her personality suddenly changed. She argued with her husband over trivial matters, and her moods swung like a pendulum. It alternated from vibrant one day to feeling so low and depressed the next day.

On the whole, the zest for life and energy, which she used to be a rich source of, was no longer there anymore. Her mood pendulum kept swinging but her life clock seemed to have stopped ticking.

You ask Rose what had happened and she could only give you a blank stare. To this very day, she's still at a loss for an answer. What went wrong, or whose fault it was, she simply doesn't know. Was she at fault? Her husband? Or was it nature? It's likely that nature played a little trick on her, a bit more than it normally does on all women at this stage of their lives. Unfortunately, Rose was not able to adjust well enough. And her husband was not understanding and supportive enough to help Rose cope.

Menopause

Rose had a pronounced case of peri-menopausal syndrome.

The menopause, also called the climacteric period, is the stage in a woman's life when the cyclic function of the ovaries and the menstrual periods cease. The average age for menopause is about 50 years, but it may occur normally in women as young as 40. The last menstrual periods preceding menopause tend to vary in duration and amount of flow. Release of egg or ovulation also becomes less as menopause approaches.

MEDICAL FILES

As a woman ages, the ovaries become progressively less responsive to stimulation by the luteinizing and follicle stimulating hormones, which are secreted by the pituitary gland in the brain. As a result, the ovaries secrete smaller amounts of the female hormone, estrogen and progesterone. Eventually, ovulation also stops.

During menopause, the symptoms may be mild or even absent. In some cases however, as in Rose's case, it can be serious and bothersome. Most women would have hot flashes lasting for a few seconds to several minutes, followed by a chill. During a hot flash, the skin especially on the head and neck becomes red and warm accompanied by profuse perspiration.

The decrease in estrogen levels may also cause psychological and emotional symptoms, making the climacteric woman difficult to understand and deal with at times. Fatigue, irritability, insomnia and nervousness are also common symptoms. Occasionally, one may have dizziness and tingling sensations described as like having pins and needles on various parts of the body. Loss of bladder control and pain during intercourse because of vaginal dryness may also occur.

Susceptible to fractures

As the estrogen level decreases, thinning of the bones called osteoporosis also develops. Risk factors associated with this problem are smoking, a low level of calcium, sedentary lifestyle, and increased intake of alcohol and steroids. During the first 5 years after menopause, 3 to 5 percent of bone is lost each year, followed by one to 2 percent bone loss subsequently.

Because of the decreased bone density, postmenopausal women are more susceptible to fractures even with minor injuries. In elderly women, fractures may even occur spontaneously. The backbone is most susceptible to osteoporosis leading to stooping and backaches. Slipped discs when carrying something heavy or while doing household chores may also occur.

Women are generally less susceptible to heart attacks and strokes before menopause than men. This advantage however is lost after menopause. It is believed that estrogen may have a protective effect on the cardiovascular system. This benefit may be partly explained by estrogen's favorable effects on cholesterol levels. A decrease in the estrogen level raises the low-density lipoprotein, which is the bad cholesterol, and decreases the high-density lipoprotein, which is the good cholesterol.

Hormone replacement therapy

Bothersome and serious symptoms after the menopause are strong indications for hormone replacement therapy or HRT. The goal is to restore estrogen to premenopausal levels. Low doses of HRT are sufficient to control hot flashes and osteoporosis. High doses may cause side-effects and long-term risks.

Estrogen may be given as a tablet or as a skin patch. It may also be applied to the vagina as a cream, especially when there is significant vaginal thinning and painful intercourse. Because of the potential side-effects and long-term risks, its use must be thoroughly discussed by both the doctor and patient. Its benefits should be weighed carefully against the potential risks and side-effects, which include nausea, breast discomfort and migraine-like headaches.

Estrogen therapy without progesterone has also been associated with an increased risk of endometrial cancer, which involves the lining of the uterus. Taking progesterone in addition to the estrogen almost eliminates the risk of endometrial cancer.

Developing breast cancer has also been a big concern with estrogen therapy. Although there is no clear-cut association between it and estrogen replacement therapy, most physicians consider it appropriate to avoid it in women who have a high risk of developing breast cancer.

If estrogen therapy is not suitable for a postmenopausal woman, symptomatic treatment with antianxiety drugs or clonidine to reduce the discomfort of hot flashes may be given. Antidepressants may also help relieve depression, irritability, mood changes and insomnia.

An important component in helping a woman cope with menopause is the support of the spouse and the other people around her. It is a most difficult period requiring a lot of adjustment in a woman's life. A caring and understanding family and supportive friends can go a long way in making sure she goes through this period smoothly. And if that is done, just like a rose plant in spring, it can also be a woman's second blossoming.

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Apart from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of the disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, or e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

DAYRIT'S VISIONS

Zero preventable deaths, devolved health system

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE STRENGTHS of Alfredo Bengzon, Juan Flavier and Alberto Romualdez, plus some "devolution." This was how Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit described his leadership when asked how different it would be from that of previous health secretaries.

"It's going to be different in the sense that I'm going to make sure devolution works," he said. He added working with local governments is necessary to ensure that basic services are provided under a devolved health system.

In terms of management style, Dayrit said he would combine those of Bengzon, Flavier and Romualdez.

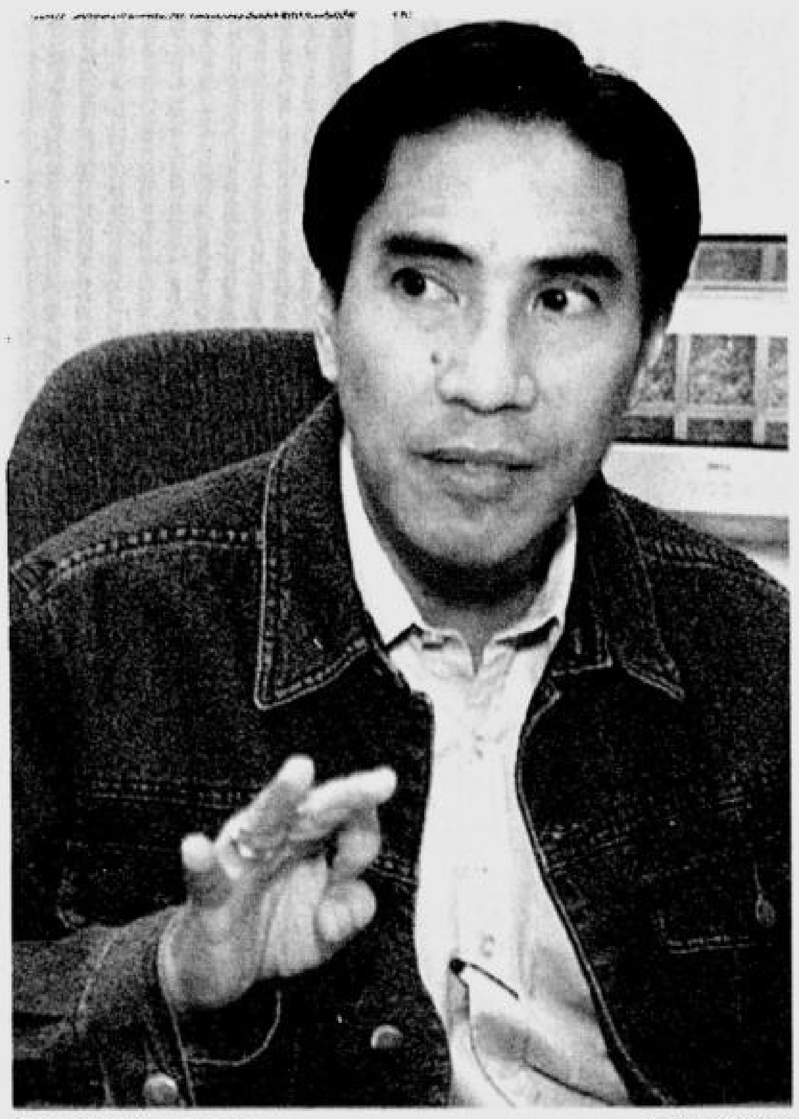
Bengzon's strength was his management and his programs, Flavier's was his advocacy, while Romualdez's was his bigger view of the DOH and the health sector and their place in society.

"I'm going to combine all of those perspectives and be more attentive to the quality of health services," he said.

He would also be more attentive to "operational" issues. He said health programs could not be delivered properly unless the DOH networks with the private sector.

Asked what is the biggest health problem the country faces, Dayrit said it is making the health care system work.

One of his visions is for all the health centers and hospitals to deliver "high quality" health care. Thus, the DOH's priority under his leadership, he said, is to make sure that there are basic preventive and curative services in all health centers nationwide.


THE HEALTH secretary

BETOY JOHNSON

The idea, said Dayrit, was to introduce a lot of reforms in the health sector and these would start with the hospitals.

Hospitals must provide better quality services. But in order to do that, hospitals should be free to generate their own income. By generating more income, these hospitals can plow revenue back into their own systems and then provide better services, said Dayrit.

"But civil society would say 'You can't get that from the poor people,' so the second part there is that you have to provide the financing for people who are going to use these services," he said.

The health insurance program, he said, would aim to increase the levels of social insurance for the population. When people would go to the hospitals, it would be health insurance that would cover for the services that they would need.

"To capture my vision in a few words, it would be zero preventable deaths," said Dayrit.

He rates the present programs on preventable diseases as "very poor." This poses a big challenge for Dayrit.

Dayrit also intends to convince people to live the right lifestyle. He is particularly concerned about health education among women.

"Maybe people are not that conscious, or even if they are, they are not that interested. They'd rather do something else like smoking, for example," he said.

Dayrit also intends to expand the Doctors to the Barrios program. He wants to make the program more systematic and converted into a residency program.

He said that during the past years health infrastructure had not improved. He cited dilapidated hospitals and the lack of big investments in health care from the private sector.

He said that even as the DOH tries to address the problem posed by infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis, it also has to face newer issues like the growing elderly population and the emergence of chronic diseases, occupational health hazards and environmental health issues.

'An opportunity to do good'

AFTER working for 13 years at the Department of Health, Dr. Manuel "Manolet" Dayrit left the government three-and-a-half years ago to work in the private sector.

But so much was his love for the DOH and public health work that it was easy for him to give up his higher-paying job to become the health secretary of the Macapagal administration.

"The opportunity to do good is there every day. But what was being presented to me was an opportunity to do good in a grand and 'multiplier-effected' sort of way. That's why I said, 'I needed to go back,'" Dayrit had told DOH employees when he assumed the post last February.

Reporters who have covered the health beat for a long time know Dayrit as a very intelligent, maybe even intellectual, doctor who probably knows everything there is in the field of epidemiology. Many, in fact, could not help but be impressed with this soft-spoken physician for his depth and breadth of knowledge.

No 'connections'

Dayrit was one of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's last Cabinet appointees and his appointment came as a surprise to many because he was never known to be a political person. He was not known to have "connections" in Malacañang.

In fact, the first time Dayrit met Ms Macapagal was on the day she signed his appointment papers in Malacañang. Dayrit recounted to DOH employees that the President told him that she signed his papers even if she had not yet met him.

"You know, your reputation has preceded you. I have looked at your CV. We have looked at it inside out. I have no compunctions about signing your appointment," Dayrit said Ms Macapagal told him.

Before his appointment, Dayrit was assistant vice president of the drug company United Laboratories Inc. and before that, he was vice president for medical services of Aetna HealthCare Inc.

Dayrit, however, honed his skills at the DOH. He was assistant health secretary from March 1992 to June 1997 and program manager of the DOH Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) from April 1986 to June 1997.

Epidemiologist

Dayrit considers his establishment of the FETP as his major accomplishment in the DOH.

FETP is a two-year in-service training course that develops field epidemiologists who are skilled in investigating disease outbreaks and conducting epidemiological research and disease surveillance. The training is done in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The program has produced most of the country's well-known and highly skilled epidemiologists who continue to work with public health services.

When Filipino factory workers in Taiwan developed an unknown life-threatening disease in 1996, it was Dayrit who was tasked to head the technical working group that investigated. The team was able to identify the ailment as the Steven-Johnson Syndrome.

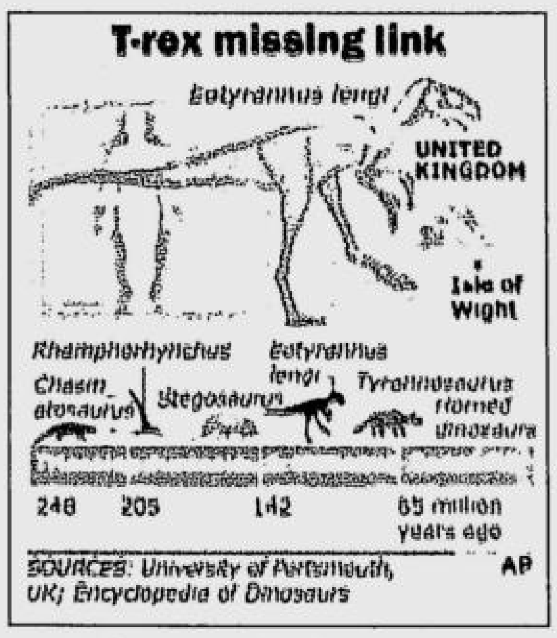
From 1988 to 1992, Dayrit was vice chair of the DOH National AIDS Prevention and Control committee and was one of those who drafted the National AIDS Control Plan.

Dayrit graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in 1977 and acquired a Master of Science degree from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1982. He received additional training from the Centers for Disease Control, Asian Institute of Management, Development Academy of the Philippines, University of Oxford Department of Continuing Education and the Judge Institute of Management Studies and Jesus College in Cambridge.

After graduating from UP, Dayrit worked at a rural health unit in Monkayo, Davao del Norte and then became a community physician in Tagum.

He is married to Dr. Elvira Sto. Niño-Dayrit. She was the DOH regional director for Metro Manila but the couple agreed that out of *delicadeza*, it was best if she quit her post. *Stella O. Gonzales*

T-rex ancestor found in Britain


T-rex missing link

SOURCES: University of Portsmouth, UK; Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs AP

LONDON—A previously unknown relative of the Tyrannosaurus Rex has been unearthed in Britain, adding a limb to the family tree of the fearsome predator, scientists said.

Eotyrannus lengi, named after the man who found the first bone of the dinosaur in the Isle of Wight, was a 15-foot long carnivore that lived 120 to 125 million years ago.

Paleontologists described the discovery as one of the most important archaeological finds made in Britain.

Martin Munt, acting curator of the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology that is coordinating the dig, said the Eotyrannus—"early tyrant"—was an important piece in the evolutionary jigsaw of T-rex.

"The remains start to fill in the family tree of life. They are a missing link. The T-rex was around 60 to 70 million years ago. At that time this skeleton was already 55 million years old," Munt said.

"We are really pushing back to the origins of the group of dinosaurs that gave us T-rex."

New species

The first bones were found in 1997 on a cliff top near the village of Brighstone, near Newport, and the name "lengi" honors collector Gavin Leng, who found the first bone. It has taken four years to excavate the site more fully and to analyze the findings.

Darren Naish of the University of Portsmouth, who is part of a five-strong team examining the remains, said only 40 percent of the skeleton had been discovered. However, he said, that was enough to determine it was an entirely new species.

"Eotyrannus lengi is one of the most complete and most globally important predatory dinosaurs of this age that has been found. It gives us a lot of information about the early evolution of the tyrannosaur that we did not know before," he said.

"It also gives us a lot of information about the diversity of dinosaurs at this time in Europe."

The later tyrannosaurs, including T-rex, stalked North America and Asia in the late Cretaceous period, about 65 million years ago. They were 38 feet long, had huge heads with powerful jaws and tiny forearms and relied on teeth alone to kill their prey.

Although much smaller, the Eotyrannus had a similar skull, shoulder and limb structure. It would have been a fast, agile predator, preying mainly on species such as Valdosaurus and Hypsilophodon, also found on the Isle of Wight.

Related to the Velociraptor

Naish said the new species might also be closely related to the Velociraptor, a six-foot long predator of the mid-Cretaceous period, around 90 million years ago, which was made famous by the movie "Jurassic Park."

He said its small head, long powerful arms and sharp claws were very similar to those of Eotyrannus.

"People who work on theropod dinosaurs are pretty encouraged—it is the early proto-tyrannosaur that we were looking for," Naish added.

"Our dinosaur has a bigger head than Velociraptor, though it is nothing like the size of T-rex. It plugs an important gap in our knowledge. They may all be descended from a small predatory dinosaur very similar to the Velociraptor from the Jurassic period," he said.

Gregory Erickson, a paleontologist at Florida State University who has done extensive work on tyrannosaurs, said the find was "very exciting."

"T-rex is the most famous and most popular of dinosaurs and any finds that reveal its ancestry are of considerable interest to paleontologists," Erickson said.

"Any finds from that region (Britain) tend to be very important because they fill a gap geographically and temporally," Erickson added. *AP*

Health secretary, unplugged

AN INTERVIEW with Inquirer reporter Tessa R. Salazar and columnist Dr. Rafael Castillo reveals what Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit is like up close and personal.

Q: So how does a health secretary keep himself fit?

A: I swim. I usually swim about three times a week but now I try to swim at least once a week. But these past two weeks, I never had a chance to swim.

Do you swim at home?

No, I don't have a pool at home. I go to the village pool (in Parañaque).

Do you still get to sleep eight hours a day?

I usually make do with six hours. Actually if I could take a break during the day and sleep that would be good, but that routine would not be possible anymore.

How has your life changed when you became health secretary?

You have less time for yourself, you really have to be thinking all of the time, that's what's tiring (laughs). And then you have to relate with a lot of people that you normally didn't have to relate to. You have to relate with congressmen, mayors, local government officials. Before it wasn't the case. You had your job, you related to your boss, you related to the people that you need to relate to to get your job done. The rest of the time you could go off—read, swim and generally enjoy life.

Now, practically the whole of the Philippines has business relating with you.

And then of course you have to relate to the media. Every time they want an issue they want to address, they will call you. You have to be able to answer the question and it's not all the time that you have a ready answer.

How are your kids?

They're still quite young (one is turning 11, the other is turning 8). They don't understand what this job means (laughs). They're a joy because they're not adults. It's actually a pleasure going home to them. What we're trying to do is at least spend Sundays together. Or if I have a Saturday afternoon free, we spend that together. We normally spend it on the swimming pool. They're already very, very good swimmers.

How are your weekends? Do you block out your mind, forget about being a DOH secretary?

One thing that I actually missed is giving up my anonymity. I'm not comfortable (with) people knowing who I am when I'm in a public place. But I think that's the burden of somebody who's in public office. "O there's Dayrit," while you're reading a book in a National Bookstore branch (laughs). Before they didn't pay attention to you. And you know you can mind your own business, they can mind theirs. Not that many people recognize me but the more I get to be recognized, the more I start feeling I'm living in a fishbowl. That's the downside.

But what's the best part of your job?

I think the best part of the job here is you are given the chance to make something happen.

Do you still get to read books aside from the DOH manuscripts?

I don't sit down and read the books anymore. I just read parts of it. You just move on or shelve it for another day.

You come from a family of music lovers?

Yeah, my father plays the violin. I have a niece, the daughter of my sister, who graduated summa cum laude from Music just two weeks ago. She's a concert pianist.

What's your favorite instrument?

I play the piano. I try to play some classical pieces but it's really more for myself.

Before you became a doctor, did you have other plans?

In college I was in a management course, then I shifted in my third year. I did not think about being a doctor until late in college. I think the reason I moved into it was that I eventually saw where the management course was leading me to, and a lot of it was toward banking. I didn't have a good business background or orientation, because both my parents were professionals. So I didn't have the affinity for it.

Today you have to do a lot of marketing, you have to market your programs that will be appreciated by different sectors.

I actually shifted from a management course to a pre-med course. The advantage of that is my liberal arts education was very broad and that's why I have interest in public health. Public health is very broad, you have to know some economics, psychology. It's population-based, you have to know statistics. That's the epidemiology part of me. Medicine I know because of my training in personal care. My background in college is broad management science. When I got into medical school, it was the First Quarter Storm so the politicization of that generation, I was part of that. And I think that was what made me commit myself to work in the rural areas.

So what is most stressful in a health secretary's job?

The job of a health secretary causes you to be thinking all the time. You really have to be thinking of what you're gonna do, you have to be thinking about what's ahead, of course you can't think very far because it's overwhelming. You have to run the department and to make projection to the media and to be able to relate to and interact with the Cabinet members because we're working on a lot of cost-cutting issues. I have to relate with the President, have to relate with the organized medicines, have to make all of the speeches. It's work all the time.

You're wife doesn't complain as you spend more time on work and less time for family?

Eli understands the job. Actually she helps with the thinking process, banks a lot of ideas.

How would you see yourself 10 years from now?

I don't know. Go back to the community, probably.

Politics?

No, probably not. Sometimes I think about working abroad but if I ever do that it's really just to widen experience. Cultural experience is enriching. But basically if I'm going to serve, I would basically serve the people here because I am a Filipino. That's what I learned. You're rooted in your reality. You were born a Filipino, you use your talents to improve the Philippines. So that's the way I think about it.

Breastfed kids grow up leaner

CHICAGO—Two new studies add to evidence that breastfed infants may face a lower risk of becoming overweight children, although one suggests factors including the mother's weight are much more important.

A study by Harvard Medical School researchers showed that the longer infants had breastfed, the less likely they were to be overweight in adolescence.

In a separate study, US government researchers found that while breastfed infants were less likely to be overweight at ages 3 to 5 than formula-fed infants, the duration of breastfeeding didn't make much difference.

Neither study answers whether breast milk itself, the act of breastfeeding or socio-economic and lifestyle traits in the infants' mothers might explain the results.

Both studies were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Healthy eating habits

Mary Hediger, a biologist at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and lead author of the government study, said higher income, better educated women are more likely to breastfeed but they are also more likely to promote healthy eating habits among their children.

In addition, overweight women are more likely to have overweight children and less likely to breastfeed than normal-weight women, Hediger said.

"Obesity tends to run in families," she said. "Whether or not that's modifiable by breastfeeding remains to be seen."

Her study is based on 1988-1994 health data. The researchers also interviewed the mothers of 2,685 survey subjects and gave the children physical exams when they were 3 to 5 years.

Children who had ever been breastfed as infants were 16 percent less likely to be overweight, and were about 37 percent less likely to be at risk.

Children were three times more likely to be overweight if their mothers were overweight.

Regulated food intake

The Harvard researchers questioned 15,341 children aged 9 to 14 and their mothers in 1996 and 1997. Youngsters who were breastfed more than formula-fed were about 20 percent less likely to be overweight than children fed only or mostly formula. The link was weakened slightly when mothers' weight was factored in, said lead author Dr. Matthew Gillman.

Gillman theorized that breastfed babies learn to "self-regulate" food intake better than formula-fed infants because they may have better control over stopping feeding when they're full. In contrast, parents who use formula may see an unfinished bottle and try to induce their infants to drink more, unwittingly encouraging them to ignore their bodies' own hunger cues, which could increase the risk for weight problems later on.

He also noted that breastfed infants have been found to have lower levels of the hormone insulin, which promotes fat storage, than infants fed formula based on cow's milk.

An editorial published with the studies says their differences likely can be explained by the ages of the study subjects and the methods used.

Regardless, both suggest that breastfeeding may offer at least some protection against obesity, Dr. William Dietz of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, wrote in the editorial.

Breast milk, "already acknowledged as the best food for infants," may provide a "low-cost, readily available strategy," Dietz said. *AP*

Treat
of the
Week

Nestlé
Cream

SATURDAY,
JUNE 2, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

C1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Peach Blush

2 cups sliced peaches, drained
1 tbsp. unflavored gelatin
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. orange extract or calamansi juice
dash of salt
1 cup NESTLÉ CREAM

Purée peaches. Pour into saucepan and stir in gelatin. Let stand for about 5 min. to soften. Add sugar and simmer for about 10 min. Cool then freeze. When half-frozen, stir in flavoring, salt and NESTLÉ CREAM. Freeze. Serve on slices of fresh fruit topped with chilled NESTLÉ CREAM.

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Nestlé
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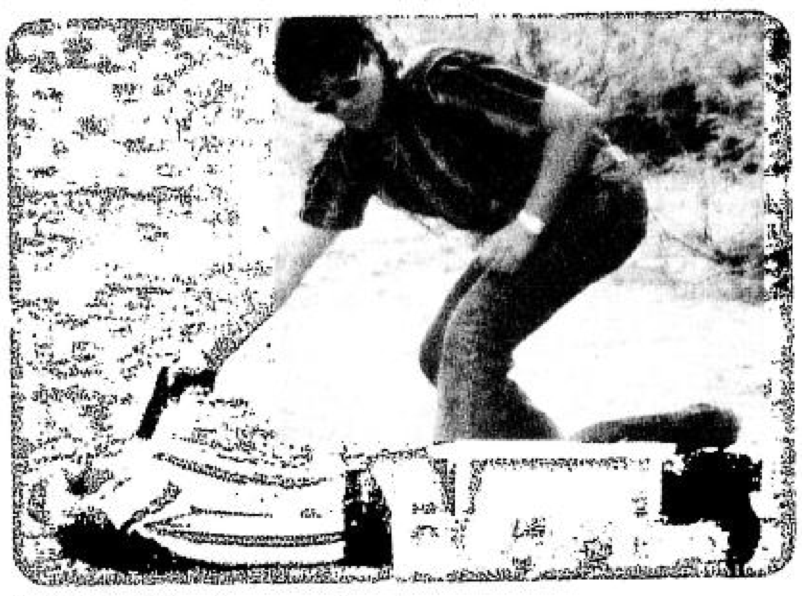

"TRAFFIC." Acute sense of realism.

MOVIE OF THE WEEK

'Traffic' takes viewers to the solar plexus of its action

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS week, film buffs are making a beeline for Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic," a complicated drama staged and shot with unusual realism by Hollywood's hottest young director.

Absorbing

What makes "Traffic" a specially exciting and absorbing viewing experience is Soderbergh's ability to tell three major stories plus other smaller tales in constant alternation with one another, and yet keep viewers from being thoroughly confused.

Such clarity of purpose and acute focus and discipline are rare to find in filmmakers, particularly a director as young (well, relatively) as Soderbergh. He's a veritable juggler of stories, keeping so many of them up in the air at the same time, and

'TRAFFIC'/P. C2

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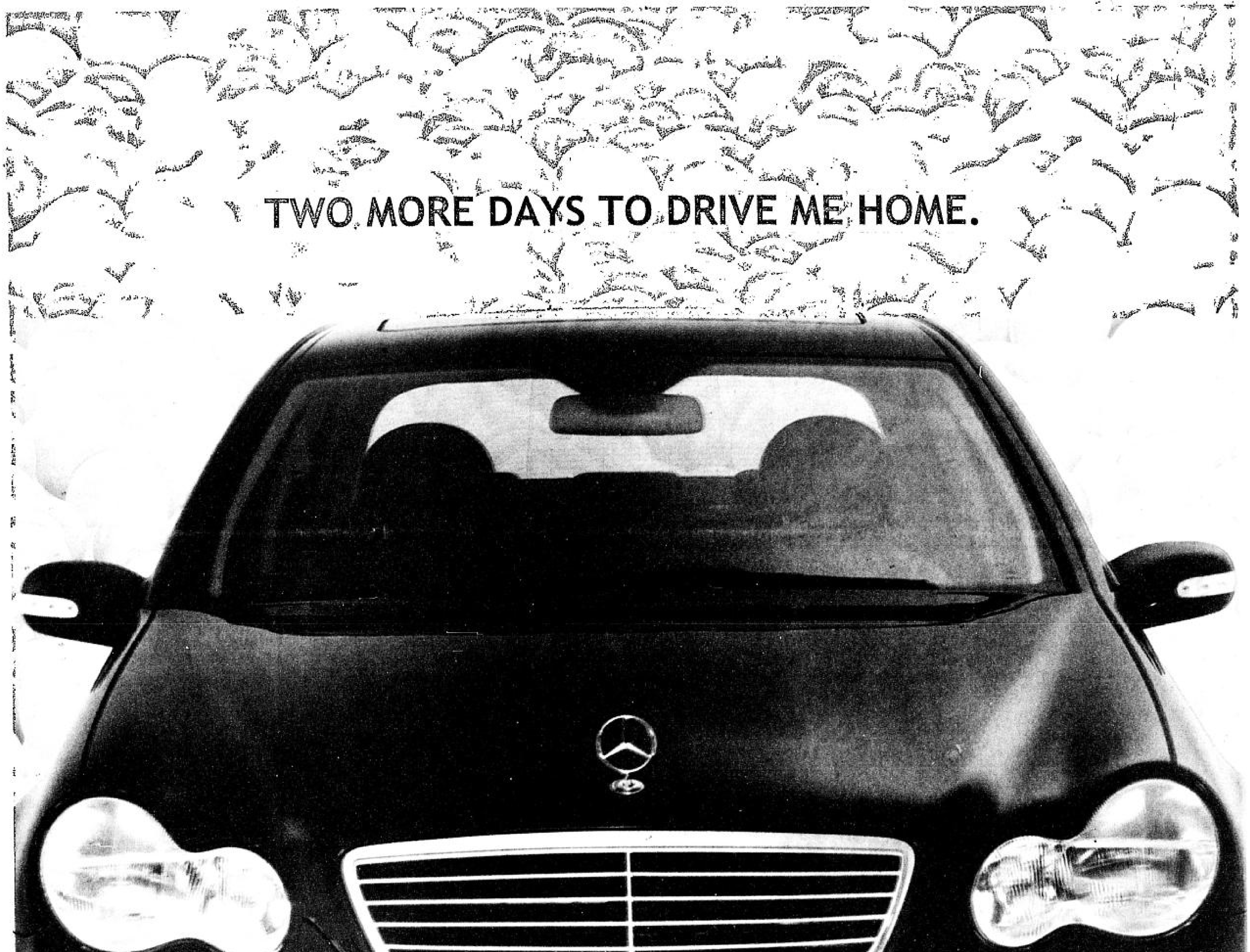

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Grace Gupana's amazing state of wholeness

BY MONA GONZALEZ

WHO doesn't remember the public service television show, "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko?" Some 20 years back, I recall seeing a seemingly endless line of indigents with health or financial problems on the program.

Segment

These days, every Saturday at 7 a.m. on Channel 7, you can still see "Kapwa Ko," although somewhat reinvented. For example, there is a segment which I never saw in college, called "Negosyong Pang-Kapwa," hosted by Grace Gupana.

Teaching livelihood is not new to Grace. She has engaged in several businesses including export, bookstores, a flower shop, a restaurant, and a greeting card business. At one point she even sold squid balls.

These days her efforts are focused on running her own company, ABS Gen Herbs International Corp., which sells two products: Charagen Ampalaya Capsules and ABS Bitter Herbs.

Parangal ng Bayan
NATIONAL CONSUMERS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

GRACE (second from left) and Paul Gupana (far right) receive their Parangal ng Bayan award for ABS Gen Herbs Intl. from Justice Regina O. Benitez, award chairman (far left), and Lily S. Nicolas, secretary general, Consumers Union of the Philippines (second from right).

Grace has definitely graduated from the school of hard knocks, as she was neither born wealthy nor married into money. She is a self-made woman, who has seen businesses rise, fall—and rise again.

This makes her the perfect person to teach livelihood to housewives who are eager to start businesses of their own. And Grace has been doing this since 1998, when she was a segment host for "Beauty School Plus" with Ricky Reyes on Channel 9.

Lucky break

That in itself was a lucky break that came in what must have been one of the lowest points of her life—after she had fallen ill for an extended period of time, rendering her unable to attend to the successful businesses that she had started and nurtured. After she recovered, with no other recourse, she sold squid balls. Even this business prospered, and she was invited to become part of Ricky Reyes' "Beauty School Plus."

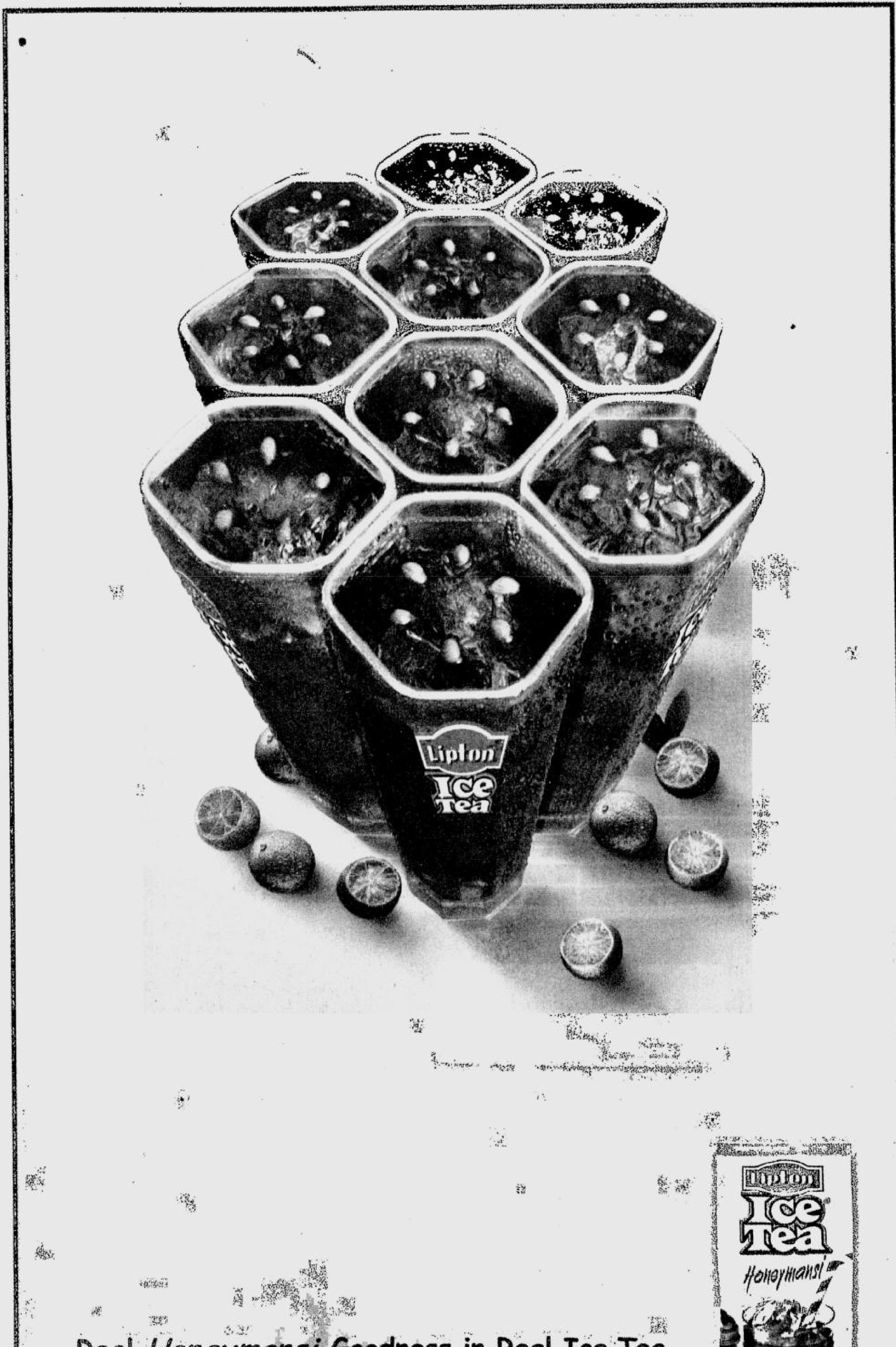
This was followed by two years of doing a similar segment for the program "Mornings @ GMA," then eight months with "Unang Hirit" before she became a part of "Kapwa Ko."

Grace was also involved with livelihood projects under former First Lady Ming Ramos (when her husband was president) and Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay. In 1997, she and Ricky Reyes participated in the Asian Women Entrepreneurship Program, where she represented the Philippines.

Under the Negosyong Pinoy Foundation which she heads, free cooking demonstrations are given (sometimes by her) from 7-10 a.m. at the Quezon City Memorial Circle, Liwasang Aurora. Here, any interested participant can learn how to do meat processing, fish processing, pastries and vegetable processing, among others.

She has also published a pamphlet of recipes in Tagalog to make saleable products like *hamon, siomai,* luncheon meat, *tosino, kakanin, pastillas* and macaroons.

GRACE/P. C3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Lipton Ice Tea Honeymansi
Real Honeymansi Goodness in Real Ice Tea.

'Traffic' . . .

(From page C1)

yet not one of them falls to the ground before he wants it to.

Drug trade

How does he do it? In "Traffic," he organizes his material around the billion-dollar drug trade between Mexico and the United States—but he approaches that central theme from different angles.

This adds texture and contrast to his storytelling. Even better, it shows how huge the problem has become, infesting not just the slums and alleys of the poor and dispossessed, but also the very home of the man (Michael Douglas) whom the US president has handpicked to become his new drug czar.

The plotline involving Douglas' character is the film's most shocking because it's so unexpected, but it's by no means the film's only disturbing element.

Extensive

Other stories center around: the character played by Benicio del Toro, a Mexican drug agent who discovers how extensive the traffic in illicit drugs has become.

A pregnant society matron played by Catherine Zeta-Jones, who belatedly learns that her husband is involved in the drug trade, and decides to fight back in her own way.

A team of American drug agents who capture an underling who's willing to rat on his bosses, only to see their witness killed while he's in their custody.

Other agents and drug dealers whose "little" stories add up to a veritable mural of the age-old struggle between the forces of good and evil—only this time, they're fighting for possession of a cache of heroin.

Most dynamic

The agents' stories are the most dynamic because they include scenes of violence and betrayal, but the plotlines involving Douglas and Zeta-Jones are ultimately more chilling because they show that the struggle no longer involves just agents and dealers, but also people who initially appear to have nothing to do with the problem.

In Douglas' case, his daughter, a pretty, bright young girl, turns out to be grievously hooked on a veritable smorgasbord of drugs, which eventually force her to sleep with just about anybody who can give her a fix.

It's ironic that, as the US drug czar, Douglas has the power to potentially clean up the country—but is unable to help his own daughter.

Rescue

In fact, he is eventually able to come to her rescue only when he gives up his important position so he can concentrate on helping her, for a change.

The hope is that, after taking time out to focus on the drug problem at his daughter's microcosmic level, Douglas can become a more capable drug czar on the macro level.

That's the film's point: the drug problem is so huge that it can be licked only when, family by family, we all recognize that it is *our* problem, and that *we* must solve it.

"Traffic" is also distinguished by its acute sense of realism, as powerfully evinced by many handheld shots that take viewers right up to the solar plexus of the movie's action.

Intensely involved

It's interesting to learn that quite a number of those scenes were shot by Soderbergh himself, which just goes to show how intensely involved the director became in his latest film.

In keeping with his movie's ultra-realistic bent, Soderbergh made it a point to elicit "un-acted" performances from his stars, who inhabit their characters as though the movie's events were actually happening to them.

While some individual performances stand out, the film's cast deserves the supreme compliment of having come up with ensemble acting at its best.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

70 years of the Oscars in colorful flashback

By Kathleen Angeli Torre

THE ACADEMY of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences was formed as an organized group that would benefit the entire industry, to help settle labor disputes and aid in policing screen content. Of all the awards that are given every year, none matches the way the Academy's Oscars captivate the viewing public. On March 1998, 87 million people in the United States watched the Academy Awards!

Winners

"70 Years of the Oscars—the Official History of the Academy Awards," a book written by Robert Osborne, features each year's nominees and winners (from 1927-1997).

The Academy was intended as an exclusive and invitational organization. Membership in the Academy was and still is invitational.

The awards were limited for the first few years, but the categories increased over the years as the number of motion pictures grew, and the diversity of works and specializations increased.

The first year had only 12 categories—Achievement by an actor, actress, dramatic directing, comedy directing, cinematography, art directing, engineering effects, original story writing, writing adaptation, title writing, most artistic or unique production and most outstanding production.

Seven categories

On the second awards year, there were only seven categories honored, but an award for achievement for Sound was included.

The first year, Charles Chaplin was given a Special Award for "versatility and genius in writing, acting, directing and producing `The Circus."' Shirley Temple was given a Special Award for her contributions to screen entertainment. She was one of the most famous females in the world at the age of six!

Laurence Olivier received a Special Award for his outstanding achievements as actor, producer and director in bringing "Henry V" to the screen (1954). An Honorary Award was given to Akira Kurosawa "for accomplishments that have inspired, delighted, enriched and entertained audiences and influenced filmmakers throughout the world" (1989).

OSBORNE'S book is replete with anecdotes and photographs that help make the awards nights come to life for readers.

The following films won for best picture: "All Quite on the Western Front" (1928-29), "Gone with the Wind" (1939), "Hamlet" (1948), "West Side Story" (1961), "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962), "The Sound of Music" (1965), "Oliver!" (1968), "The Godfather" (1972), "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" (1975), "Rocky" (1976), "Annie Hall" (1977), "Amadeus" (1984), "The Last Emperor" (1987), "Rain Man" (1988), "Silence of the Lambs" (1991), "Unforgiven" (1992), Schindler's List" (1993), "Braveheart" (1995), "The English Patient" (1996), "Titanic" (1997).

Two awards

Some of the best-actor winners: Emil Jannings in "The Last Command" was the first award-winning actor. Fredric March won two best actor awards, one for "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and the other for "The Best Years of Our Lives."

Plus: Lionel Barrymore in "A Free Soul," Clark Gable in "It Happened One Night," James Stewart in "The Philadelphia Story," Gary Cooper in "Sergeant York" and "High Noon," Paul Lukas in "Watch on the Rhine," Humphrey Bogart in "The African Queen," William Holden in "Stalag 17," Laurence Olivier in "Hamlet," Gregory Peck in "To Kill a Mockingbird," Marlon Brando in "The Godfather," Jack Nicholson in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," Richard Dreyfuss in "Goodbye Girl," Robert Duvall in "Tender Mercies," Dustin Hoffman in "Rain Man," Daniel Day Lewis in "My Left Foot," Anthony Hopkins in "Silence of the Lambs," Al Pacino in "Scent of a Woman," Tom Hanks in "Philadelphia," Nicolas Cage in "Leaving Las Vegas," Geofrey Rush in "Shine," and Jack Nicholson in "As Good As It Gets,"

Voters

Among the best actresses, Janet Gaynor was the first to win an award, for her performance in "Seventh Heaven." Katharine Hepburn in "Morning Glory" and "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Bette Davis in "Dangerous." It was speculated that Davis received her 1935 Oscar because voters had previously overlooked her performance in "Of Human Bondage."

Vivien Leigh in "Gone with the Wind," Ingrid Bergman in "Gaslight" and "Anastasia," Joan Crawford in "Mildred Pierce," Audrey Hepburn in "Roman Holiday," Grace Kelly in "The Country Girl," Elizabeth Taylor in "Butterfield," Louise Fletcher in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," Diane Keaton in "Annie Hall," Meryl Streep in "Sophie's Choice," Cher in "Moonstruck," Jodie Foster in "Silence of the Lambs" and Helen Hunt in "As Good as It Gets."

Walt Disney won two Oscars in a row for best cartoon short subject. The first was for "The Flowers and Trees" and the second was for "Three Little Pigs." Later on, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" received a Special Honorary Award: one full-size statuette and seven miniature ones!

It seems to be a long list but it's actually short, considering that there are 70 years' worth of winners. Reading this book is almost like seeing each of those 70 awards nights, as if you had been there, in person.

Grace . . .

(From page C2)

Family

Indeed, you could say that this is one woman who practices what she preaches, and knows whereof she speaks. But we are surprised when she tells us that she has realized that, more important than making money in business is success in her family life.

"For years I was an arrogant wife," she says. But when she learned to respect and value her husband, business success came again, this time minus the tremendous stress of the past. "There is nothing that compares to success in the family," she says.

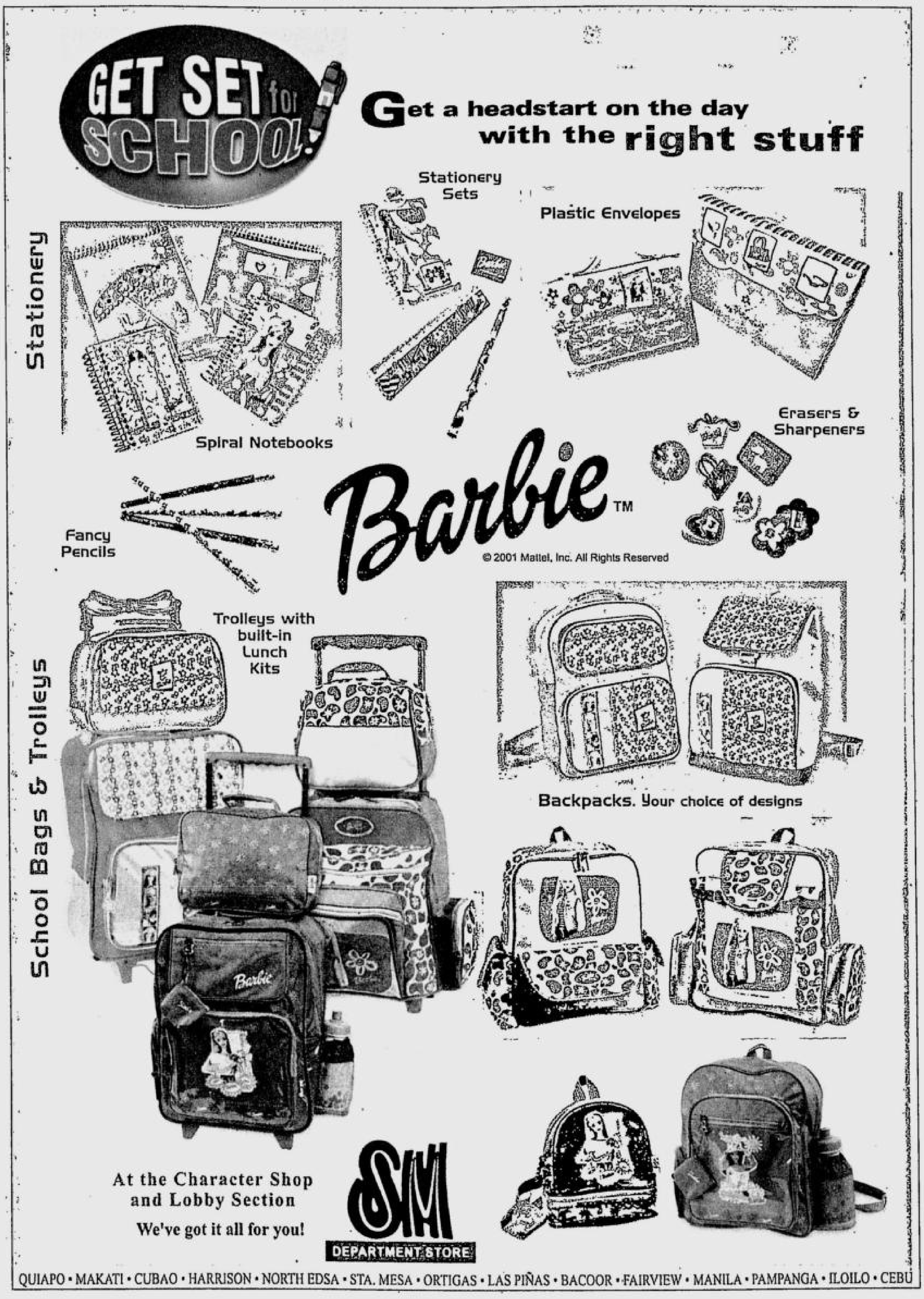
ABS Gen Herb's Charagen Ampalaya Capsules (sold in Mercury, GNC and Family drugstores) recently won the National Consumers Excellence Award during the 16th Annual Parangal ng Bayan Awards this year.

It is also the only Philippine herbal product that was accepted in the recently held Expo 2001 in Anaheim, California. ABS products are sold in the United States. They are endorsed by golf champion Dorothy Delasin, who takes them regularly.

The capsules, she says, are a healthy add-on to one's medicinal regimen, especially when dealing with ailments like diabetes, asthma and arthritis. In Cuba and Puerto Rico, the plant is used to treat diabetes mellitus, and chronic ulcers in the stomach.

Judging by the businesses Grace has engaged in, you could say that wholeness has become a way of life for her, meaning wholeness in her career, family life and health.

Now, that's an amazing state of Grace!



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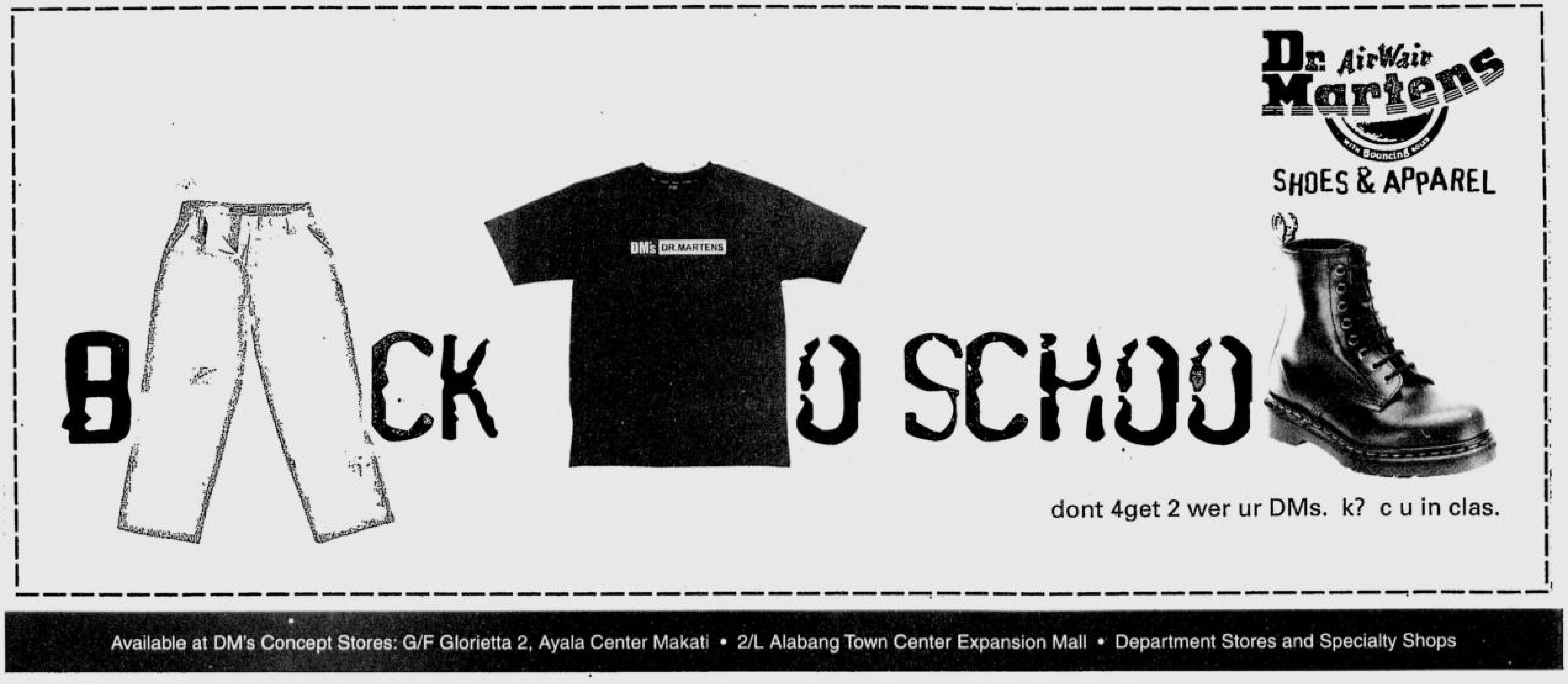

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Promising film projects

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY people are "down" on the local film industry's prospects this year but, as usual, we opt to take a different tack. We believe that, in terms of quality, Filipino movies' prospects are on the upswing.

Sure, the number of new local movies may have declined, but in terms of substance and significance, there are enough reasons to celebrate.

First, after coming up with the inspiring hit, "Tanging Yaman," Laurice Guillen is following up with *two* promising new projects, "American Adobo" and "Santa-Santita."

The first film, under Tony Gloria's new company, was shot in New York City, and is about Fil-Americans yearning for home. The second, like "Tanging Yaman" a Star Cinema project, is about how God's healing hand is revealed in today's sinful world.

For her part, Marilou Diaz-Abaya has spent over a year researching her new film, "May Bagong Buwan," which is currently being shot. It's about the complex conflict in Mindanao. Talk about an important project!

GUILLEN. Her new film "American Adobo" is about Fil-ams yearning for home.

Chito Roño is directing "Dekada '70," the film version of Lualhati Bautista's acclaimed novel.

And Maricel Soriano stars in "Mila," a perceptive film about a teacher.

Five promising movies being shot or readied for screening during the first half of this film year—that's five very good reasons to feel good during this "bad" year for local films!

Just make sure you patronize them when they're shown, OK?

Out of the mouths of babes

On "Kids Say the Darndest Things" (RPN-9, Sundays) two weeks ago, some children were asked to recall when they saw their fathers at their happiest. A little girl piped up: "When I'm sleeping! That's when he and my mom kiss and stuff."

A boy's reply: "The happiest I saw my dad was at a cocktail party, with a glass of scotch and soda in his hand!"

Another question was put to the kids: When is your house at its cleanest?" Answer: "When Grandma comes over."

A final question: "Do you think your dad can be president of the United States?" A boy answered, "I don't think so." "Why not?" "Because he's not nearly smart enough!"—Out of the mouths of Art Linkletter and Bill Cosby's smarty-pants kids!

Clothes for Tweens

TV and movie production companies abroad make a lot of money from "merchandising"—the sale of products derived from their programs and films. On the local entertainment scene, however, only ABS-CBN and Star Cinema have ventured into this profitable adjunct to production.

We hope that, in the coming years, other channels and studios will follow suit, because there are multi-millions to be made in TV-movie merchandising.

For instance, the ABS-CBN store now sells clothes for "Tweens" (youths "caught" between adulthood and childhood), under the Props label.

The fashion word's out: "Tween boys want a sporty, casual look this summer—bicycle tees matched with knee shorts in different hues and styles. And, perfect for tween girls are checkered blouses and halters with capri pants and skirts with their comfortable feel."

The ABS-CBN Studio Store has outlets at Cinerama Recto, SM City Cebu, SM City Bacoor, Gaisano Cebu, Gaisano Cagayan de Oro, and at the ABS-CBN Direct Sales Service Center with outlets in Quezon City, Las Piñas, Mandaluyong, Cabanatuan, Angeles, Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro, Sta. Rosa and Cavite.

Pokemon in Cagayan de Oro

A demonstration and mini-tournament of the Pokemon Trading Card Game will be held today at Gaisano Citymall in Cagayan de Oro City.

Also expected to be a crowd-drawer is the King of the Hill contest, an informal tournament in which players battle each other to gain three consecutive victories that will qualify them to join a bigger tournament.

Comedians on E!

Today on the E! channel, "Comedy Month" kicks off with comedians on "Celebrity Profile" and "E! True Hollywood Story": Kathy Nijimy and Cheech and Chong, respectively.

On Sunday, June 3, E! pays tribute to the late John Belushi, who died when he was only 33 years old. At 9 p.m., see Belushi acting with Dan Aykroyd in Steven Spielberg's film, "1941."

'Awit ni Cynthia Alexander'

Concert at the Park at 5 p.m. this Sunday, June 3, features the songs of singer-songwriter-instrumentalist Cynthia Alexander at the Rizal Park outdoor theater.

Cynthia will sing "Magick Woman," "Heya!," "Mangalam," "Intertwyne," "Walk Down the Road," "Wait," "Malaya," "Halik ng Ulan," "Dumaan Ako," "Motorbyke," "Hiroshima" and other numbers.

'Destiny: The Aga-Charlene Wedding'

The Aga Muhlach-Charlene Gonzalez nuptials will be shown in the Premiere Exclusive, "Destiny: The Aga-Charlene Wedding" at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, on Channel 2.

Aside from the nuptials themselves, the special includes interviews and candid footage of Aga and Charlene through the years.

'Manggagamot'

This Monday (June 4) on "I-Witness" (11 p.m., Channel 7), Cheche Lazaro zeroes in on four faith healers in "Manggagamot."

They are Mang Pedro, a "psychic dentist" from Bulacan; "Magnetic healer" Wiliam Nonog, Mount Banahaw's Ja Insyong, who uses herbs to treat people, and psychic surgeon Alex Orbito, who operates with his bare hands.

Are they on the level? To find out, Cheche documents their methods and studies their patients' medical records before and after treatment.

'Pearl Harbor' premiere

Joey@92.3 FM sponsors a premiere showing of "Pearl harbor" on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Cinema 6 of Glorietta 4. Joey has also teamed up with the National Geographic Channel to mount an exhibit related to the historical event, at the Glorietta Cinema Lobby until June 8, and at the Glorietta 2 walkway from June 9 to 17.

On June 25, Joey is staging another premiere this time of the animated feature, "Atlantis," also at Cinema 6 at Glorietta 4.

Monday nights (June 4,11,18 and 25) see "Joey's Night Rhythms" sizzling anew at Strumm's El Pueblo, featuring Soulid Elements at 9 p.m. And every Wednesday night (June 6, 13, 20 and 27) Joey's Dance Nights@Café Overdrive" at the Ford Showroom spotlights' Passage and Toy Symphony.

LAZARO. A documenatry on faith healers.

Pointers for aspiring songwriters

By Jocelyn Valle

SO WHAT if you didn't make it to this year's Metropop? It may be your first or sixth failed attempt to win in the annual songwriting contest that GMA 7 revived in 1996, but there's still another one coming up next year.

We've been to a few talks sponsored by Katha, an organization of new and accomplished songwriters, and we'd like to share some of the group's award-winning members' tips on how to make it to the Metropop finals:

Marriage

A good song, according to them, is a marriage of melody and lyrics. But keep in mind that the screening committee doesn't have the luxury of time. Its members are tasked to listen to all the entries, but do you think they really wait till the last note before they move on to the next song?

The first few bars are therefore very crucial. There should be a "hook" that will entice the judges to continue listening to the song.

"*Paano ba maghanap ng* hook?" asks Dodjie Simon. "*Ano ba ang* powerhouse *na* melody? The human mind always looks for a pattern. There are only two types of melody, forgettable and unforgettable."

So, how do you make yours unforgettable? Simon shares that there are three ways. You can use one of the four patterns in melody-making: ascending, descending, zigzag—and the one that doesn't fall in any of the three.

"Ako Ay Pilipino" and "What Matters Most" are two of the songs that employ the ascending pattern, which Simon also calls "the ladder." Variations like the big steps/leaps and scaling down are evident in "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," respectively.

Variant

The descending pattern, on the other hand, is exemplified in "Some Good Things Never Last," and its variant, the big dip/dive, in "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas." Simon finds songs with a zigzag pattern like "Hero," which Mariah Carrey popularized, amazing because, he says, there's so much happening to the melody.

Simon also suggests repeating an interval, just like what he did in one of his hit songs, "Ikaw Lamang," which was originally sung by Zsa Zsa Padilla and has been revived by Janno Gibbs and Jaya.

An interval can also be repeated within the line, says Simon, like in "The Promise." In "Some Good Things Never Last," there's a line that recurs, he adds. "I thought that you couldn't repeat a line twice but I've learned from listening to other songs that you can. For instance, a line in 'Love Is All That Matters,' tt's repeated four times!"

Simon humbly admits that a line in his 1999 Metropop grand prize-winning song has nothing special. "But because it's repeated, it becomes interesting," he points out.

"Let your melody soar, fall or rise again," he advises. "It really depends on your taste. *Parinig n'yo rin sa iba ang kanta n'yo.* Don't ever think that it's the best composition. A good songwriter should be humble."

Rough drafts

Jungee Marcelo agrees. "*Ang kanta kailangang dumaan sa maraming* scratch," he says, referring to rough drafts that show the progression of songwriting. "Once *na*-publish *na, history na 'yan. Wala ka nang magagawa para baguhin pa ito.*"

Rhyming and metering are important to the composer-lyricist of the 1997 Metropop grand prize-winning song, "Para Sa 'Yo (Tongkantangto)." "You can write a song without rhyme only after you have mastered the art of rhyming," he avers, and deadpans. "*I*-rhyme *mo na para* first prize!"

Trina Belamide confesses that her compositions are lyric-oriented. She shares some guidelines for songwriters who have problems with finding the right words for their melodies:

BELAMIDE. Lyric-oriented compositions.

"*Malinaw dapat ang* message *ng* song," she begins. "Tell the story, not the emotion. The lyrics should be tight and at the same time *kakaiba*."

A good first step, says Trina, is looking for the title. She swears it's effective. So, think of what your song's point will be, she continues, and summarize it in one sentence. Then start writing the lyrics.

It's like poetry, but you've got another thing to consider here, the melody. The word may sound intelligent, cute, or odd but if it doesn't fit in, it has to go.

Good story

Angelo Villegas encourages songwriters to tell a good story. His songs are about his personal experiences, so it wouldn't be so bad to wear your heart on your sleeve. "Be true to what you feel," he urges. "Do whatever you want. If it sounds true to your ears, then go for it."

Make sure, though, that your entry has a clean recording. "Don't put everything in it. Guitar and voice are good enough. You don't have to go to a professional studio. A home demo will do, as long as it's clean."

(Some past finalists we've talked to believe that spending a bit more on your entry will give you an edge. It will not only make your song sound great, it will also make the organizers think that you can handle producing a song – should you qualify for the finals.)

Angelo doesn't know if showing up on the last day of submission helped him clinch the P500,000 prize money and the Orlina glass trophy. He had no intention of joining the competition and only gave in to the insistence of a friend, who thought "Forever And A Day" was wonderful. Luckily, most of last year's judges thought so, too.

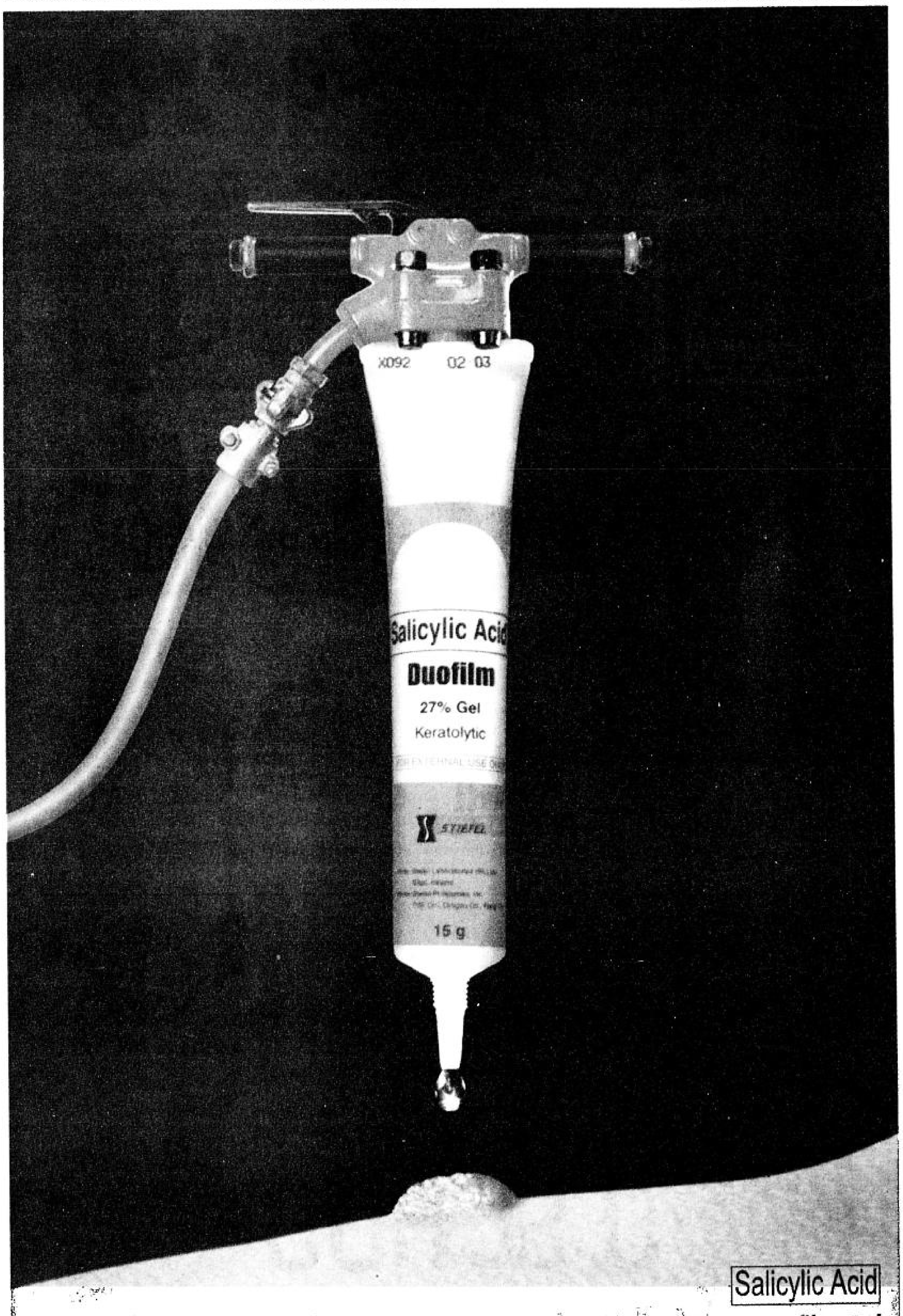
Winning the Metropop gave Angelo a great sense of accomplishment – and changed his life. "People pay more attention to me now," he smiles. "I've been getting more jobs and other opportunities."

Best shot

To all songwriters who want the same, Angelo tells them to give their best shot. "You have nothing to lose. You can enter two compositions, so if you think you wrote the worst song, you still have another one."

And our multi-awarded composers chorus: "*Kahit hindi nakasali ang kanta mo sa* Top 12, *may gamit pa rin 'yan. Basta sulat lang nang sulat!*"

And you can be like La Verne Ducut and Catherine Carlos, whose collaboration called "Kawikaan" copped Metropop 2001's second prize. Hopefully, they will likewise be able to help shape Philippine music – just like top-prize winners Louie Ocampo (composer) and Joey Ayala (lyricist) and third-placer Dennis Garcia, who are three of the music industry's admired and honored members.



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TEN YEARS AGO

Outstanding TV and radio programs honored

By Noelani Torre

A DECADE ago, young singers Donna Cruz and Dessa were becoming all the rage, with the former psyching up the airwaves and the latter captivating audiences. Donna was Viva's youngest hitmaker and her single "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso" enjoyed brisk sales at record stores and was a constant request at radio stations.

Fruitful career

Dessa, on the other hand, did not have an album to her name-yet. Poised on the brink of what promised to be a fruitful career, this then 16-year-old hoped to become another Dulce. Mitch Valdes called her "a damn good singer" and manager Boy Abunda sang her praises.

The boys were not far behind. "Lunchdate's" Louie Heredia was topping the charts with "Can't Find No Reason," "Nag-iisang Ikaw," "Iisang Damdamin" and "Pinakamamahal." Actor and singer Roeder was given a platinum recording citation for his album "Roeder," which includes the single "Sana Naman." His second album, "Sulyap," was soon to be released and he spent his time performing on the provincial concert circuit.

Speculations hounded the Megastar in June of 1991. Sharon had just finished doing what she thought were the sexiest love scenes of her career for her new film "Ako ang Nauna sa Iyo."

She said that she felt she could carry off a convincing performance because her film partner was her husband Gabby Concepcion. This statement caused tongues to wag and people to conclude that she and her husband were enjoying "a second spring" in their turbulent marriage.

Critics were warning Sharon about Dawn Zulueta, the actress who just might steal her thunder with the latter's melodrama "Hihintayin Kita sa Langit." Dawn reportedly had "screen-scorching" kissing scenes with Sharon's ex, Richard Gomez.

Uncomfortable

Speaking of exes, Sharon and Robin Padilla were forced to share the stage during the FAP awards that year, as they had to accept the "Box Office Champion" award for their hit co-starrer. The two were obviously uncomfortable and avoided each other's eyes. Clearly, their erstwhile romance was truly dead.

Enough about Sharon. Her husband, Gabby Concepcion was Ruffa Gutierrez's leading man in "Sayaw, Neneng, Sayaw," an episode of "Isang Gabi, Tatlong Babae," which was scheduled for release very soon.

Ruffa was looking forward to the screening of her solo debut film of sorts, "Makiusap Ka sa Langit." Directed by Lino Brocka, this movie "sought to establish her as a serious actress" and would probably walk away with most of the awards if it had been shown during the Manila Film Festival.

The topic of awards brings to mind Lea Salonga's success on Broadway when she bagged the Best Leading Actress in a Musical trophy for her portrayal of Kim in "Miss Saigon." Fellow actor Jonathan Pryce won the Best Leading Actor honor.

Locally, the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) held its first ever Gawad CCP Para sa Radyo and Fourth Gawad CCP Para sa Telebisyon for the outstanding radio and television shows of 1990. The 10 Best TV Programs were: "Mel and Jay," "Handog ng Peta," "Mongolian Barbecue," "For Art's Sake," "Pin Pin," "Public Forum," "Spotlight," "Probe Team," "Sic O' Clock News," and "Tatak Pilipino."

ZULUETA. Scorching kissing scenes.

Sadly, three of these shows—"Public Forum," "Sic O' Clock News" and "Handog ng Peta" were already off the air when the awards were given.

The Best TV Specials were "Dear Sam... Sumasaiyo, Juan" and "Tinig ng Tagumpay."

Trophies

For their unique contributions to Philippine television, these individuals and institutions also received trophies: ABS-CBN, Development Bank of the Philippines, Nestlé, PLDT, Jessica Soho, Jun Mabborang, Ric Villegas, Lydia Brown, Ryan Cayabyab, Menardo Jimenez, John Nosenas and Rene O. Villanueva.

The Gawad CCP Para sa Radyo awardees were divided by area. In Metro Manila, the "Pinakamahusay na Programang Dokumentaryo" was awarded to dzRM Philippine Broadcasting System's "Parangal." dzEC Eagle Broadcasting System's "Drama Filipina" received the "Pinakamahusay na Dulaang Pang-Radyo" award. The Gawad Para sa Natatanging Kontribusyon" was conferred on the dzRM Philippine Broadcasting Service and Norma Balaoro Remo also of dzRM.

Similar awards were distributed to deserving radio programs and personalities of the Visayas and Mindanao.

The evening's highlight was the presentation of a "Natatanging Parangal Para sa Radyo" to Francisco "Koko" Trinidad, the "Father of Philippine Radio" and "Dean of Broadcasting of the Philippines," for his pioneering efforts in the use of radio as a mass medium for the dissemination of information and for national development.

The awards were hosted by Tessie Tomas, Mari Kaimo and Ces Quesada.

To end on a lighter note, Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing had been allowed to stay on in the Philippines by officials of the New York-based Children's Television Workshop (CTW), who tried to recall the two in 1984, saying that the two characters were their property. Children and parents deluged them with mailed pleas and petitions, and they finally acceded after seven years. That's living proof of kiddie power!

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The world according to young adults

BIGGS (in bed) caught in the act by his parents in "American Pie 2."

A FEW years ago, movie audiences fell in love with an unforgettable group of characters as they teetered hilariously and all-too-humanly on the brink of adulthood. We shared their excitement, anticipation, embarrassment and friendship, remembering our own life experiences reflected in their adventures.

Next chapter

Two upcoming films focus on that delicate period of near adulthood and the zany misadventures that serve as rites of passage. "American Pie 2" proudly reunites the original cast of "American Pie" for the next chapter.

After a year apart—attending different schools, meeting different people—the guys rent a beach house and vow to make this the best summer ever. As it turns out, whether that will happen or not has a lot to do with the girls.

Between the wild parties, outrageous revelations and yes, a trip to band camp, they discover that times and people change, but in the end, it's all about sticking together.

Directed by J.B. Rogers and written by Adam Herz, this comedy stars Jason Biggs, Shannon Elizabeth, Chris Klein, Natasha Lyonne, Thomas Ian Nicholas, Tara Reid, Seann William Scott, and Mena Suvari.

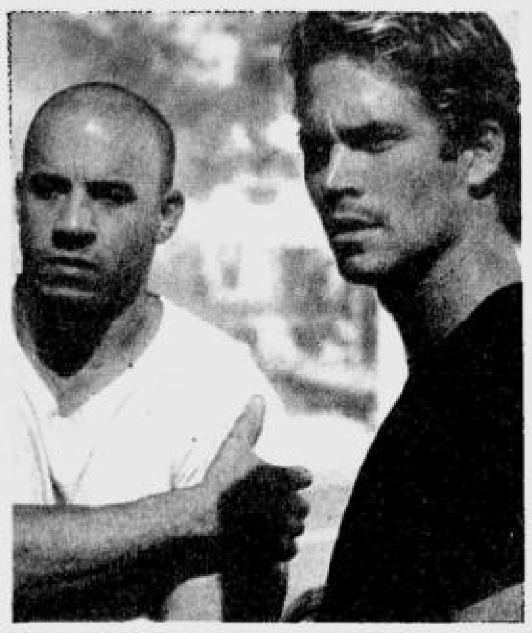
Street racing

"The Fast and the Furious," on the other hand, is an action-adventure movie that takes a fierce and frenzied look at rival Los Angeles street teams who use street racing as a means of establishing power.

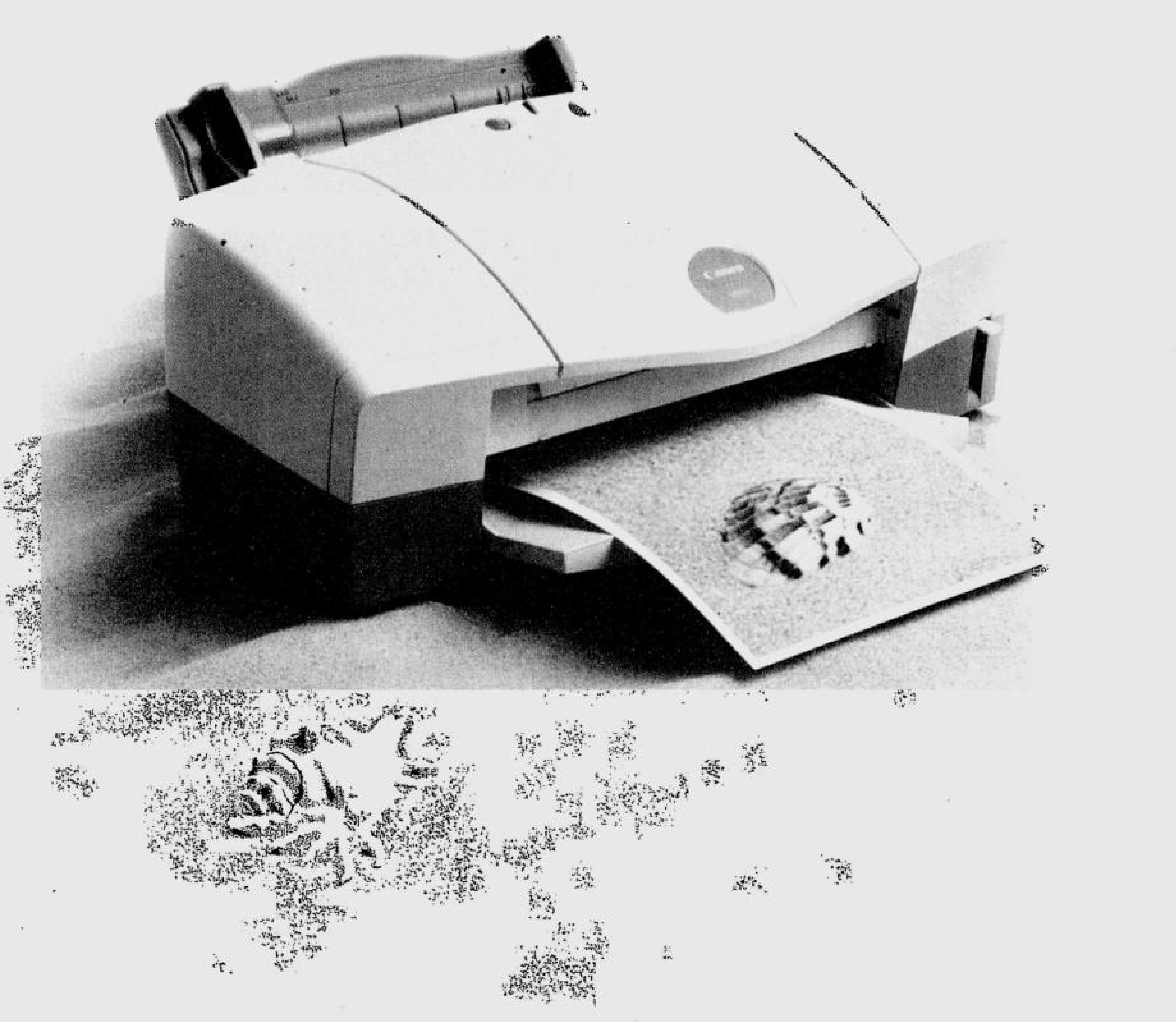
Directed by Rob Cohen, the film is a heart-pounding adrenaline rush, featuring sleek and powerful high-performance vehicles and amazing car-racing sequences.

It's about a rookie cop who goes undercover, posing as a racing team member, in order to investigate a series of truck hijackings. Managing to ingratiate himself with the team's leaders, he finds himself in jeopardy when the other members begin to suspect an impostor within their ranks, setting the stage for an exciting climactic showdown.

The action-adventure makes full use of the talents of Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Michelle Rodriguez, Jordana Brewster, Rick Yune and Chad Lindberg.



"THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS." Climactic showdown.



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Natural solutions for bowel problems

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

PASSING stool should be the most natural process for all organisms. In this highly technological age, however, it seems that many people are now finding difficulty in maintaining regular bowel movements. I have read some letters published in "The Healthy Liver and Bowel Book" which illustrate modern man's dilemma:

Bloating

"I had been a sufferer of abdominal bloating for 20 years and was most distressed to see my waistline getting larger every year. The bloating was much worse after eating and before my periods were due . . . I had always been constipated with small hard stools that would not come out easily.

"Since using fiber powder (Fibertone), my bowel actions have changed completely so that I now go three times everyday, always at the same time . . . My stomach has gradually gone down and I am now able to look feminine and slim in fashionable clothes.

"I am happy to think that I have found a natural solution, although I wished I had understood my problem years ago to avoid all the suffering."

"I have been constipated for over 10 years and also suffered from irritable moods, hemorrhoids and itching around the anus. My wife finally got sick of my complaints and put me on a fiber powder (Fibertone). For the first eight days, my condition did not change much, but on the ninth day, I had a huge bowel action with a very offensive smell. When I examined it I saw hundreds of small worms wriggling around in it. I was disgusted and told my doctor who tested my bowel actions and found several varieties of parasites.

Raw garlic

"I have continued with the fiber powder for nine months with very good results and now have two largish bowel actions daily without straining. The itch and bad moods have gone and I have lost 23 kilograms in weight. I also take raw garlic daily and have no further signs of parasites."

These letters come from people who live in well-developed countries and yet they suffer from problems such as constipation and parasites. Instead of thinking that nothing can be done about such problems, it is worthwhile to consider the advice given by the book's author, Dr. Sandra Cabot, on how to deal with the situation.

Her first suggestion is to maintain a healthy population of microorganisms in your bowel. How? Dr. Cabot gives the following guidelines:

a. Avoid refined sugars and carbohydrates as these are fuel for microorganisms, especially yeast.

b. Avoid preserved foods, especially meats (pizza meats, corned beef, ham, bacon, sausage, smoked meats and smoked fish, etc.)

c. Avoid long-term use of antibiotic and steroid drugs.

d. Eat plenty of fiber in the form of raw vegetables and fruits, whole grain, bran, ground seeds and legumes, and raw or lightly cooked sweet corn. This will have a "broom effect" and sweep the walls of the colon, removing layers of encrusted and hardened feces, which harbor unfriendly microorganisms.

e. Use a fiber powder regularly to cleanse the colon.

f. Follow practices of good hygiene.

g. Use natural antibiotics to kill intestinal yeast, bacteria and parasites. Natural antibiotic foods, herbs and condiments are cabbage juice, cruciferous vegetables (cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli), raw garlic, onions, leeks, radishes, fenugreek, ginger root, hot chili, lemon juice, turmeric, mustard and rosemary.

h.Take supplements of Lactobacillus acidophilus (must be refrigerated). This friendly bacterium fights the bad bacteria and helps maintain ecological balance. It is particularly good after antibiotic therapy.

Next week, I will share with you Dr. Cabot's other suggestions on how to prevent bowel problems.

Wings--the album, the documentary ...and now a book by McCartney

By Paul Majendie

LONDON—Paul McCartney, reliving all his yesterdays, last week revealed that he is producing a book about his group Wings and illustrating it with photos by his late wife Linda.

Wings, the group he formed after the acrimonious breakup of the Beatles, has already been the subject of a television documentary and a 'Greatest Hits' album.

Rock photos

Now it's time for the book—and for the first time he will be publishing the backstage rock photos taken by Linda.

Before meeting McCartney, Linda Eastman was a leading photographer of rock icons like Bob Dylan, the Beach Boys, Jimi Hendrix and the Doors.

Marriage to McCartney changed all that when she became a mother and joined Wings as the keyboard player.

Before her death from breast cancer in 1998, she said: "Playing in a band totally stopped me as a working photographer, my career just stopped."

"Photography was more important to me than music—but my husband and my family were more important to me than photography and I was prepared to give up photography for them," she added.

Text

But that still didn't stop her from taking informal pictures which are now to see the light of day in a new "Wingspan" book for which Paul McCartney will be supplying the text.

"Linda had an eye for honesty," he said. "She saw the truth and that shines through all of the images that she produced. Her pictures are all very natural, nothing was posed."

A collection of Linda's rock photos—"Sixties: Portrait Of An Era" became an international bestseller in 1992, selling 200,000 copies.

The Wingspan 'Greatest Hits' album entered the BillBoard album chart in the United States at number two, making it the fastest-selling album of McCartney's post-Beatles career.

The Wingspan television documentary, showing home movie footage from the McCartneys, attracted a US television audience of 15 million.

Paul McCartney has a new studio album coming out in September and he has said he would like to hit the road for the first time in eight years with a string of impromptu concerts around the world.

Reuters

McCARTNEY. His book will include photos taken by his late wife Linda.

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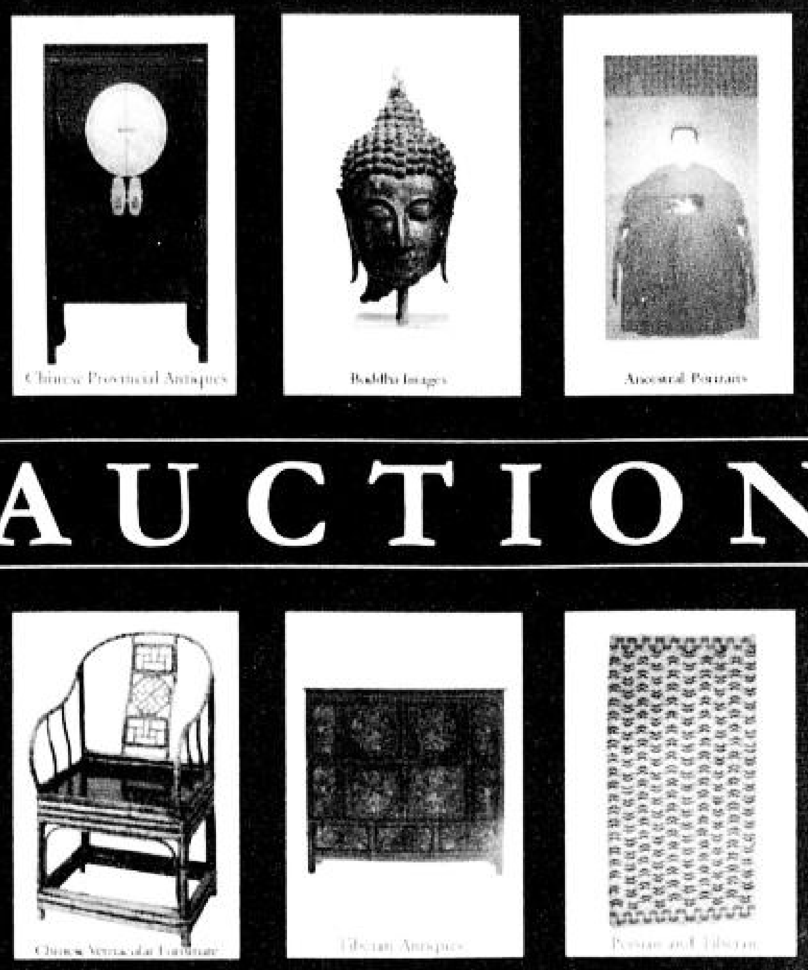

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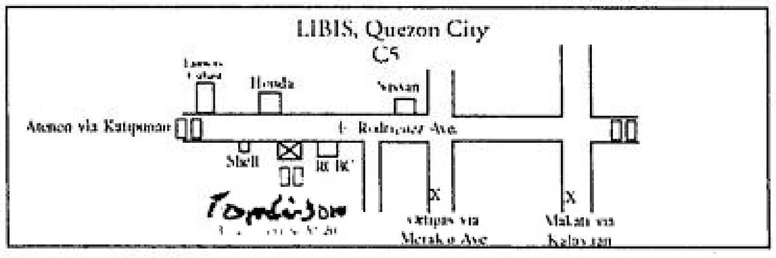

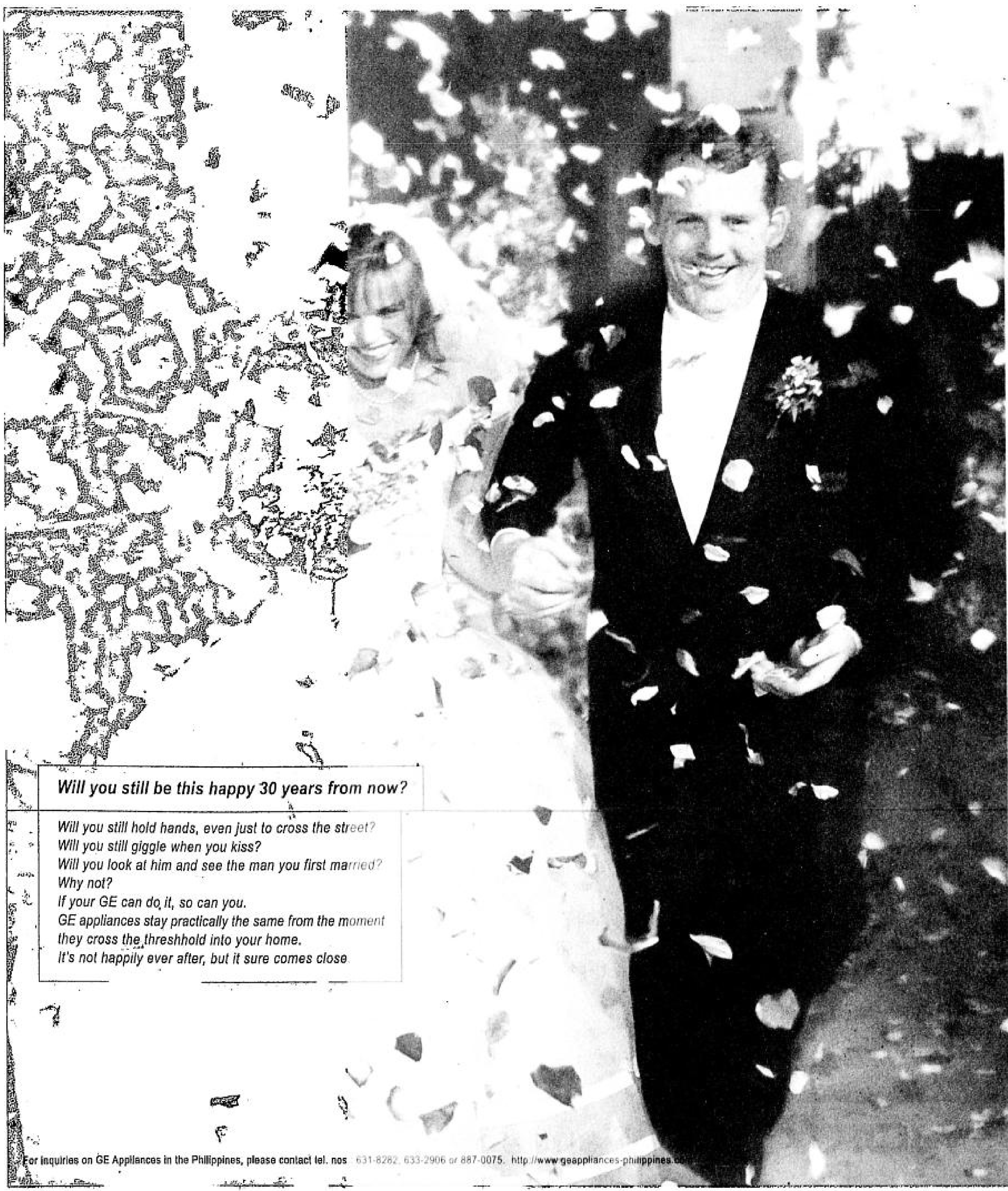

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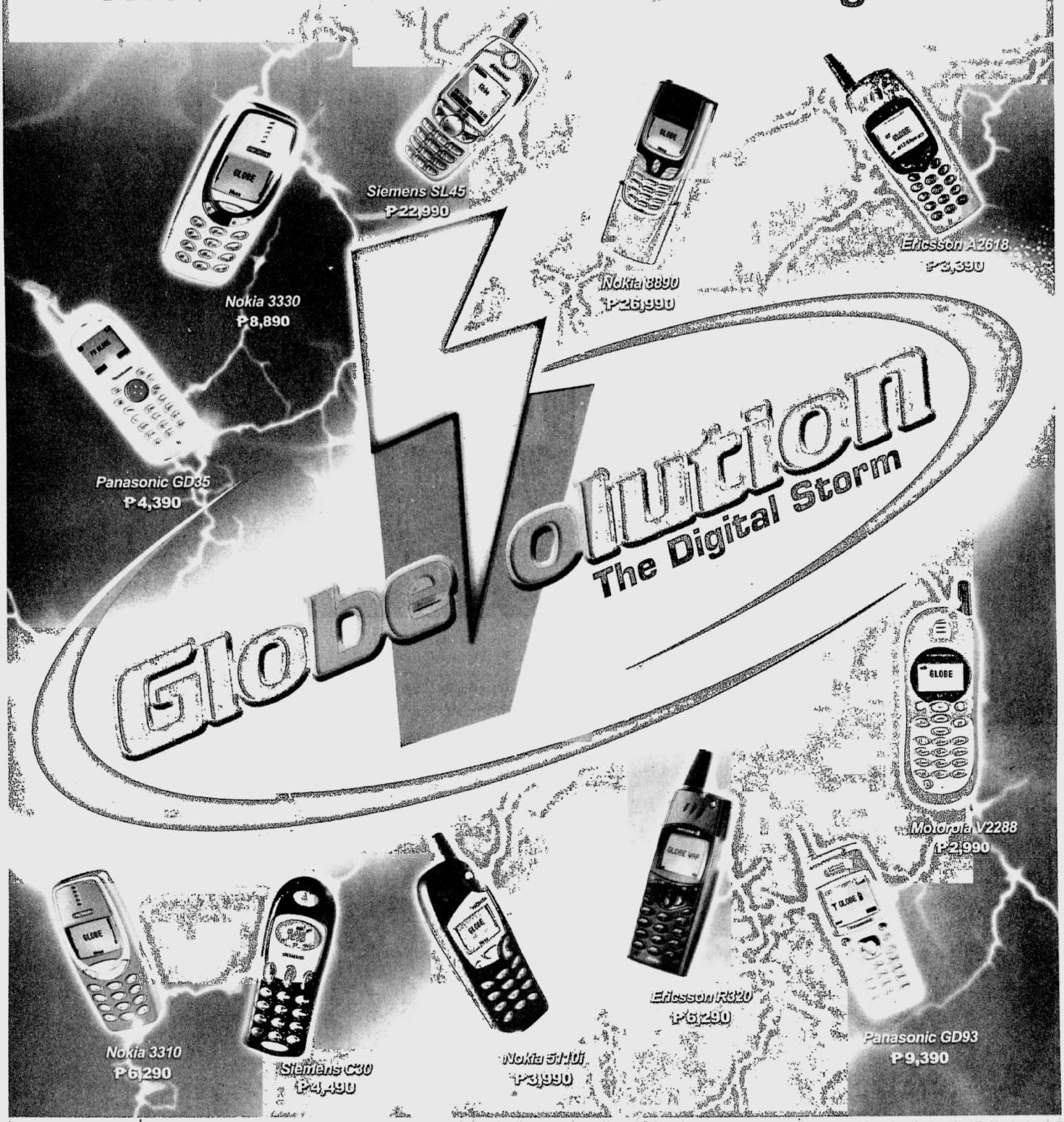
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TEQUILA

PHOTOS BY JEANNE LIM

DIAZ-ABAYA (left) rehearses a burial scene with Cesar Montano (third from right) and other actors.

To do justice to the complicated and combustible material, the filmmaker has spent over a year researching it

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Marilou Diaz-Abaya starts shooting film on conflict in Mindanao

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

LAST May 22, we woke up early to make the two-hour trip from Manila to Tanay, Rizal, to cover the shooting of Marilou Diaz-Abaya's new film, "Mindanao" (working title). We went out of our way to report on the production because we believe that it could be one of the most important movies to be made this year.

Detailed treatment

The film is Marilou's take on nothing less than the huge, complex conflict in Mindanao—the first time that it's been given this detailed and focused a treatment. To do justice to the extremely complicated and combustible material, the filmmaker has spent over a year researching it.

After meeting with many scholars and authorities from both sides in Mindanao, she came up with a distillation of the major issues involved, made specific and empathetic in the story of two Muslim brothers, one a doctor in Manila (Cesar Montano), and other a MNLF officer in Mindanao (Nonie Buencamino).

The day we went to the movie's location, we were fortunate to catch the shooting of a scene involving these two principal actors.

Location

When we arrived at the location of the production, we were happy to see Nonie, an actor whose talent we've admired for years, and were specially pleased to see that he had finally gotten a major film role to match his talent.

All too often in films past, Nonie has had to make-do with supporting or even cameo roles that he could do with one eye closed *and* one arm tied behind his back. In Marilou's new movie, he will finally have to work hard to do justice to his many-faceted character.

At 9 p.m., Marilou and the members of her staff met to discuss the day's work in detail. The veteran staff members were joined by three of Marilou's film students at the Ateneo, who were getting an invaluable immersion in actual filmmaking.

Marked contrast

Our friends Andy and Jeanne were impressed with the cool but serious mood on this set, in marked contrast to the erratic, circus atmosphere on some other movie productions.

Well, it isn't by accident that Marilou has come up with superior films like "Jose Rizal." Quality movies are the products not just of exceptional talent, but also of an organized and focused filmmaking system and process that assures the maximum utilization of the various talents involved in the production.

After the morning meeting, Marilou and her staffers drove up a hilly road to inspect some sets that were to be used later in the week. One was a small but authentic-looking *torogan* (Muslim royalty's house) that had been suitably aged to look like it had been lording it over that neck of the woods for more than 100 years.

Authentic look

We were impressed not just by the set's authentic look, but also by its relative smallness.

MARILOU/P.D2

NONIE Buencamino and Carlo Aquino (they play father and son) wait for the movie camera to roll.

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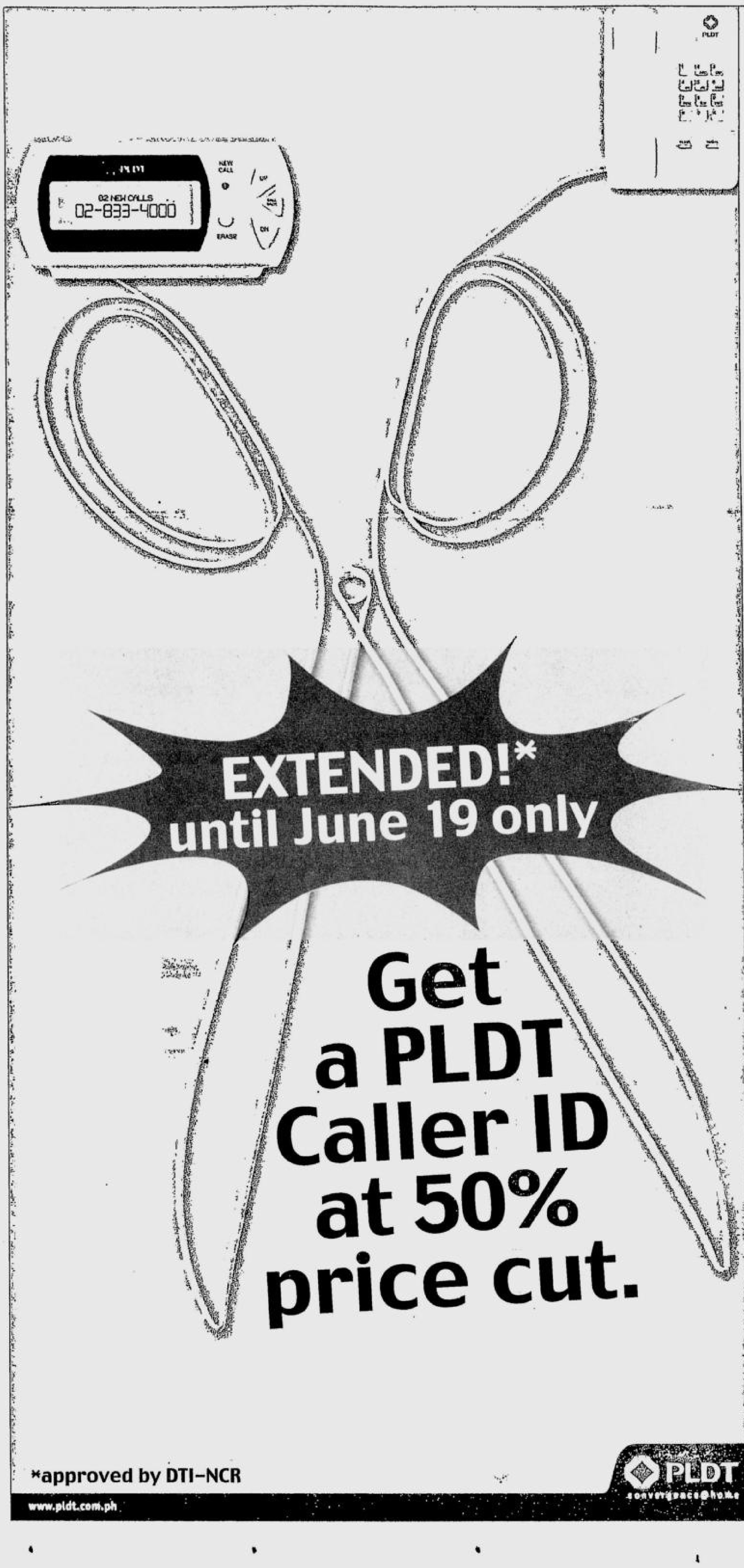

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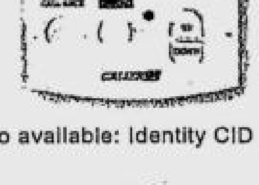

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Dutch animation films screened for Filipino movie buffs

By Rica Arevalo

TEN animated films from the Netherlands were showcased last May 25-27, 2001 at the Shangri-La Plaza. The Royal Netherlands Embassy brought in producer and filmmaker Nico Crama to program the diverse Dutch animated films made in the last two decades. Crama has been managing director and executive producer of the Holland Animation Foundation since its establishment in 1982.

Nomination

"Oh My Darling" (1978) was written and directed by Börge Ring. It earned an Academy Award nomination and the Prix du jury at the Cannes Film Festival in 1978. In vibrantly drawn images, the film shows a family where a young girl blossoms to adulthood and makes life complicated for her loving parents. The devoted father steps down as the "king" of the house with the entry of the daughter's husband.

"The Characters" (1986) was voted Best Dutch Animated Film of the 20th Century, Utrecht 2000. The film uses letters and graphic symbols to complicate the bizarre world of George and Belle. It's written and directed by Evert de Beijer, whose images are compared to the artworks of Picasso.

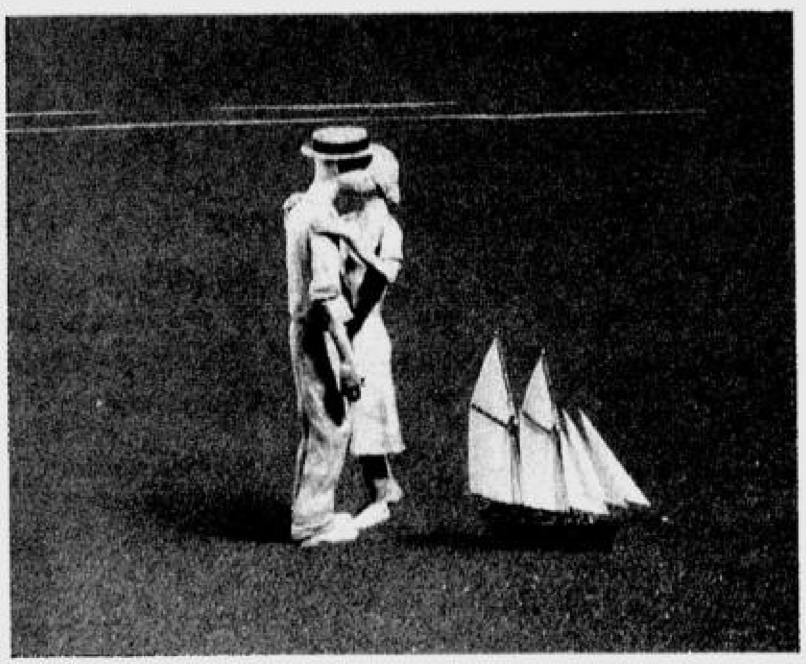
"Museums" (1987) is filmed from a prize-winning script made by Petra Dolleman. A man is considered a piece of art as he visits a museum. A story without dialogue, the soundtrack brings you to the museum of Dolleman.

Ellen Ramos of Animagination, a network of local independent animators, observes, "We were fortunate that we were given this fresh program. Being exposed to very visual and music-based Dutch animation, one learns that language is not an obstacle to understanding films."

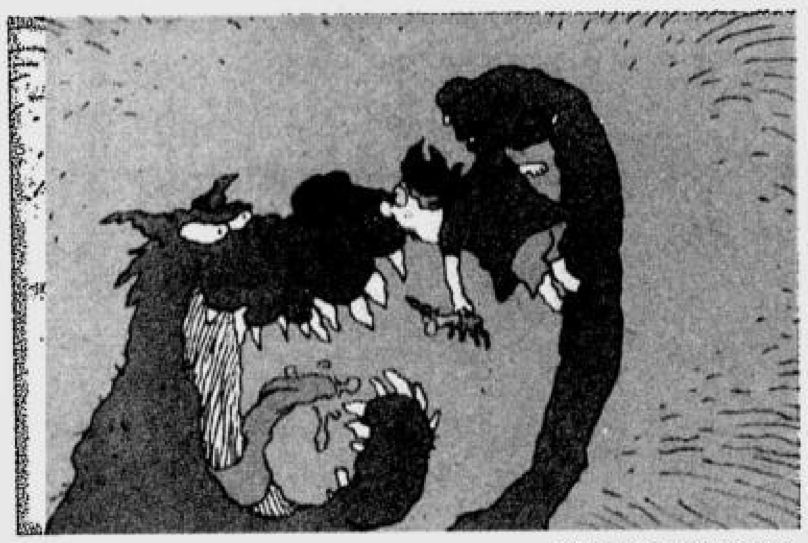
Two hands

"I Move, So I Am" (1997) by Gerrit van Dijk is an autobiographical film about his life as an animator. He was into his 60s when he made this film. "I Move, So I Am" starts with the filmmaker masterfully drawing his two hands. The director shows all the films he has done while doing his self-portrait. It won the 1998 Golden Bear in Berlin and was in competition at the 1998 Annecy Festival.

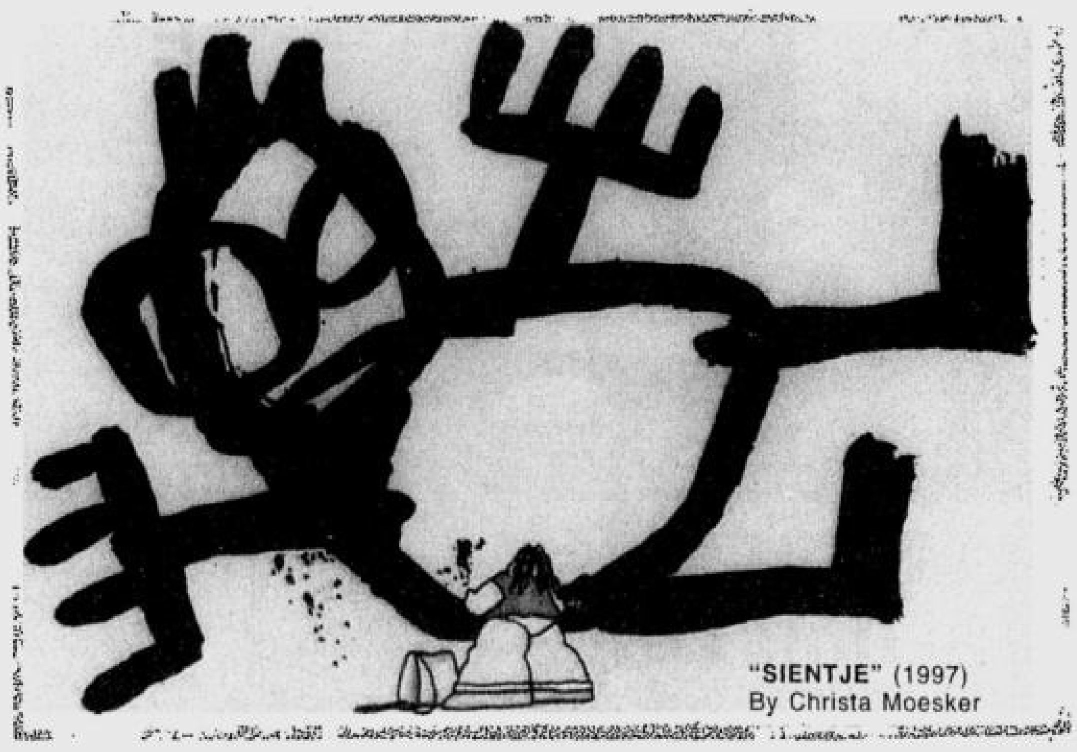
"Famous Paintings" (1996) was written and directed by Maarten Koopman. Using the paintings of world-renowned artists, Koopman cleverly utilized different animation techniques to pay tribute to a series of famous works. The paintings of Van Gogh, Monet, Goya and Dali, among others, were mixed with smart storytelling by the witty director. It won the Special Jury Prize at the 1990 Cannes Film Festival.



"FUGA" (1996) by Hans Nassenstein.



"3 MISSES" (1999) by Paul Driessen



"SIENTJE" (1997) By Christa Moesker

"Fuga" (1996) took director Hans Nassenstein eight years to make. Using a white, puppet-like, 3D character, the film tries to reflect man's childhood, dreams and expectations. Symbols of war and freedom are so evident that, even though the movie has no dialogue, one can feel the pain of conflict and still remain hopeful in the end.

From the audience, Baba Velasco who is a colorist at Optima Digital shares, "We don't need high technology to do animation. A simple sheet of paper and pen will do. We all have the same desire to tell our stories. The power of communication is the key that transcends all things."

Full of anger

"Sientje" (1997) by Christa Moesker is one of the successful workshop films of the Netherlands Institute for Animation Film. A young girl is full of anger and hatred after having a fight with her parents.

CRAMA. Holland Animation Foundation executive.

Locked in her room, she illustrates the different ways of letting off her steam. Very hotheaded, the child naughtily and violently makes her point to the delight of viewers. The film won as Best Short Film in the 1997 Dutch Film Festival and Best First Film in the 1998 Annecy Film Festival.

"3 Misses" (1999) by Paul Driessen is a hilarious Dutch film blended with the cultures of other countries. A cowboy, Snow White, Moses and others come together in this humorous fusion of fairy tales and biblical figures. It earned a 2000 Academy Award nomination and numerous awards in Italy, India, Hiroshima, Ottawa and Denmark.

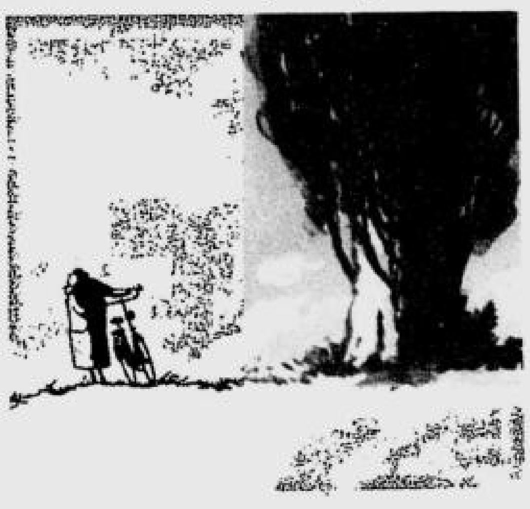
The most awaited film of the night was the 2001 Oscar winner, "Father and Daughter" (2000) by Michael Dudok de Wit. It is a very touching film about a girl longing for her lost father.

Both father and daughter love to go biking. One day when they go out for a bike ride, the father goes towards a sailboat, never to return again.

Charcoal drawings

The daughter grows up, becomes a mother and a grandmother yet the longing to find her father remains until her dying day. The charcoal drawings express the daughter's emptiness and mere words cannot describe the feelings evoked by the film.

A bicycle is important to the Dutch landscape and seeing the characters ride it all throughout the film shows their unique culture. As Crama pointed out to the Filipino viewers who attended the festival, "Keep your own culture in your animation. Many films look the same but make the films that go to your heart. The audience feels it if the film is culturally and personally authentic."



"FATHER AND DAUGHTER" (2000) by Michael Dudok de Wit, Oscar Academy Award, USA 2001.

Marilou Diaz . . .

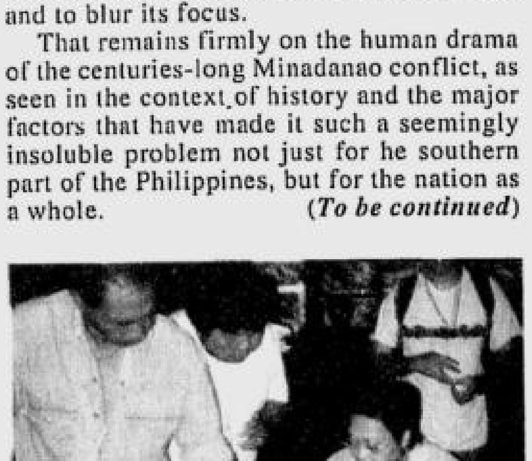
(From page D1)

Indeed, another set, this time a mosque, was also quite compact.

We liked this because it showed that this production wasn't going to beat its audience on the head with big-budget, glossy "production values," but wanted to tell its story realistically and with a human touch and dimension.

In fact, the movie's budget *was* sizeable, but it was clear that Marilou would not allow this to distend the look of the production, and to blur its focus.

That remains firmly on the human drama of the centuries-long Minadanao conflict, as seen in the context of history and the major factors that have made it such a seemingly insoluble problem not just for he southern part of the Philippines, but for the nation as a whole. *(To be continued)*



AT 9 a.m., the director meets with her production staffers to discuss the day's work in detail.

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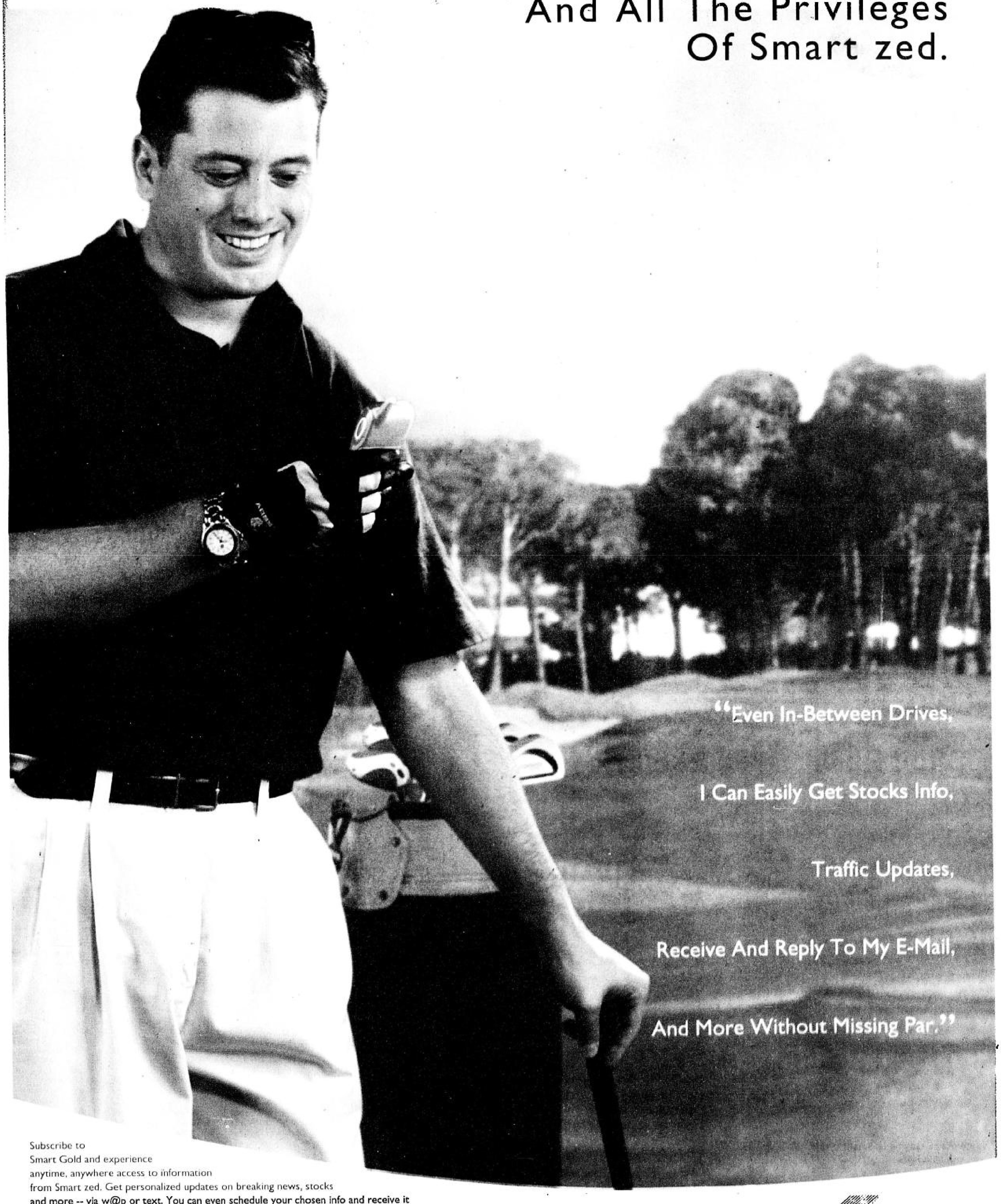
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Rosa Rosal's 51-year-long love affair with the Red Cross

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

ROSAL. Substantial endowment.

FOR A lifetime of service, Rosa has won various awards from civic, social and government organizations, including the prestigious international Magsaysay Award from the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation.

The $50,000 cash prize she received from the Foundation, she donated to PUP (Polytechnic University of the Philippines) for 50 scholarships for life. That substantial endowment will outlive her and make generations of young Filipinos remember the name Rosa Rosal, along with all the humanitarian and selfless service she so nobly represents.

Fine actress

It has been non-stop advocacy for the Red Cross for Rosa since 1950. "In 1957, I took a deep breath and decided to dedicate my life to the Red Cross," she recalls. Why did she decide to do that? She was, after all at the height of her career.

She was a Famas winner and was highly respected in the industry. The public loved to hate her when she played a *kontrabida.* However, because she was a fine actress, she could portray either leading lady or villain, she came across credibly, either way.

"I really don't know," she mused. "I just felt I could do something worthwhile in the Red Cross. I didn't spread myself thinly, however. I concentrated my efforts on the Blood Bank."

When one mentions blood donation, one name quickly comes to mind: Rosa Rosal. For not only does she regularly ask for donations, she personally supervises occasions when people give blood. She has done this for decades!

Because the international organization must subsist on its own, Rosa has tirelessly tried to acquire equipment vital to the Blood Bank. She recalls, "I am not a doctor but I was able to get top-of-the-line equipment worth P50 million for a "refrigerated centrifuge."

To safeguard blood against the HIV virus, she got help from the Australian ambassador for the necessary equipment, too. Since the Red Cross is apolitical and neutral, she seeks help where she can and puts contributions to the best possible use.

Donations

Rosal likewise renovated the Blood Bank offices through donations while setting up Blood Extension Units all over the country to store the necessary amount of blood for those in need, especially the poor.

When dengue fever was plaguing thousands of the poor and needy, Rosa got a P2-million machine that could separate blood into the necessary platelets.

The demands are many and the work constant, but Rosa has faced up to the challenges with unflagging tenacity and dedication.

In 1976, she started the television show "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko" in Channel 7, with Orly Mercado as her co-host. However, not long after, Doroy Valencia convinced her to transfer to Channel 4, the government television station with a new public service program, "Damayan." She has hosted the show with the help of others in the past, but now does it solo.

After all these years, how is she faring? "The Lord gave me a vision, so I persevere. There are new programs to set. *Ayoko huminto.* (I don't want to stop.)"

How about other kinds of work? A government post, maybe? "No, I love my work in the Red Cross precisely because it is apolitical and neutral. Here, I can help everyone. I don't want a government position. If the Lord allows me, I will die for the Red Cross!"

So, at the rate Rosa Rosal is raring to go, her ongoing love affair with the Red Cross will continue and last much longer than 51 years. And many thousands of Filipinos will be the better for it.

From a grateful nation, dear Rosa, "Thank you. You are a fine and noble lady, a woman for all seasons!"

SWITCHING CHANNELS

GMA joins the world of beauty pageants

By Edmund L. Sicam

GMA is branching out into the beauty pageant business with its acquisition of the franchise of Mutya ng Pilipinas, now on its 34th year. Last Wednesday, the network presented the 25 finalists to the press in ceremonies held at the Sulo Hotel. The grand coronation night will be held on June 9 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio and the rites will be aired at 9 p.m. over GMA.

The network held screenings all over the country to make sure that the different regions are represented in the contest. Finalists include: Rosemarie Cepida from Iloilo City, 19, an English major at the West Visayas State University, who loves poetry and considers Robert Frost her soulmate; Mimilannie Lisondra from Bacolod City, 20, a senior at St. La Salle in Bacolod City and winner of the Miss University International contest held in New York City; Jackie Garcia from Cebu City, a singer who won third place in GMA's Star Search and even sang a duet with Regine Velasquez on "SOP;"

Girlie Gesta from Davao City, 19, who wants to be a software programmer; and Mary Liza Diño from Marikina City, 19, a speech communication junior at UP, who has appeared in numerous Shakespearean plays at Dulaang UP.

MUTYA ng Pilipinas finalist Mary Liza Diño.

There are two contestants from abroad—Michelle Ann Penez from California, USA, 19, taking up sports medicine at Santa Monica College, and Abigail Abalos from London, England, 18, who's thinking of a career in fashion design.

The winner will compete in the Miss Asia-Pacific Quest. The four runners-up will be sent to other international pageants—Queen of Clubs, Miss Intercontinental, Queen of the Year and Miss Tourism International.

New MBA blood

ABS-CBN recently launched the fourth season of MBA at a press briefing held at the Salo Restaurant on Sgt. Esguerra Ave. MBA 2001 starts tomorrow and will be aired on PTV 4. This year's theme is "New Blood, New Game," meaning, not necessarily new faces, but "new inspiration."

They are introducing several changes this season, to make the games even more exciting to watch. A new rule called Blitz 3 will award a team three points if a shot is converted four seconds after the throw-in.

Why are the games being aired on another network? ABS-CBN already has a crowded programming schedule, making it impossible to air the MBA on a regular basis. The studio has changed its programming to cater to the youth market so the MBA games would not jibe with the station's image. So PTV 4 was the alternative, one that seems logical because the government station has always been known for its sports coverage.

We got to talk to one of the new players who will see action this season—Bong Salvador of the Socsargen Marlins, who was introduced to us as "*pamangkin ni* Ipe (Phillip Salvador)." Bong is 23, tall (6'3"), *tisoy* and good-looking enough to enter show biz. After all, it runs in the family. Bong said that he is not closed to the idea of joining show business. He shares that he used to act onstage during his school days.

We noted that Bong is very articulate and relatively self-assured in dealing with the press. Some players who attended the press conference were quite shy. Perhaps his experience as a ramp and commercial model helped him project an air of confidence. However, Bong admitted that he still becomes conscious when he sees cameras pointing straight at him.

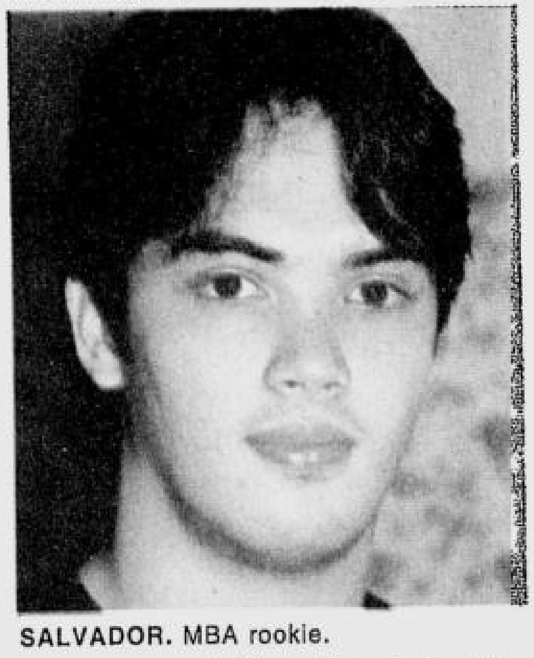
He graduated from Adamson University with a degree in Business Administration. He was part of the basketball team of Adamson that played in the UAAP, where he said he used to average around 15 points per game. Then he joined the PBL, playing first with Chowking and then with the Shark Energy Drink Team for two years.

When he was offered a slot in the MBA, he grabbed the chance. He would like to join the PBA someday, but chose to join the MBA first to gain experience.

From what Bong shared with us, it's clear that he is disciplined. He says that he does not stay up late, drink or smoke. What about sex? "*Ah, puede iyon!*" he quips.

He is very careful about following these rules because very often, disobedience would result in injuries, something that every player would like to avoid. Bong says that it is precisely the possibility of being gravely injured that justifies the huge salaries that basketball players get.

"Players put their lives on the line. Sometimes the salary would not be enough to cover hospital bills (should a player be permanently injured)," he says. Bong already has a long scar on his left arm, a result of an injury during one of his earlier games.



SALVADOR. MBA rookie.

Bong is also very level-headed. He says he is not *pikon.* He has never argued with a referee over a call that they disagreed on. "*Kawawa naman iyung mga* referee, *nagkakamali din sila,*" Bong says with a sympathetic tone.

He admits though, that when his team loses, "*Masama ang loob ko!*" He does not engage in a drinking spree with his teammates nor does he pick fights or find people to blame. What he does is, "*Nag-iisip, kung saan kami nagkamali.*" He says that before the night is through, he usually gets over his temporary depression. He does not waste time dwelling on little things like that.

Bong acknowledges that a good player should be aggressive all the time, and believes in always giving his best. "*Mahirap makatulog pag di mo ginawa lahat (ng magagawa mo)!*" Bong adds, "I'm not physically gifted like the black (players), so I have to compensate by being aggressive."

$120M miniseries from HBO

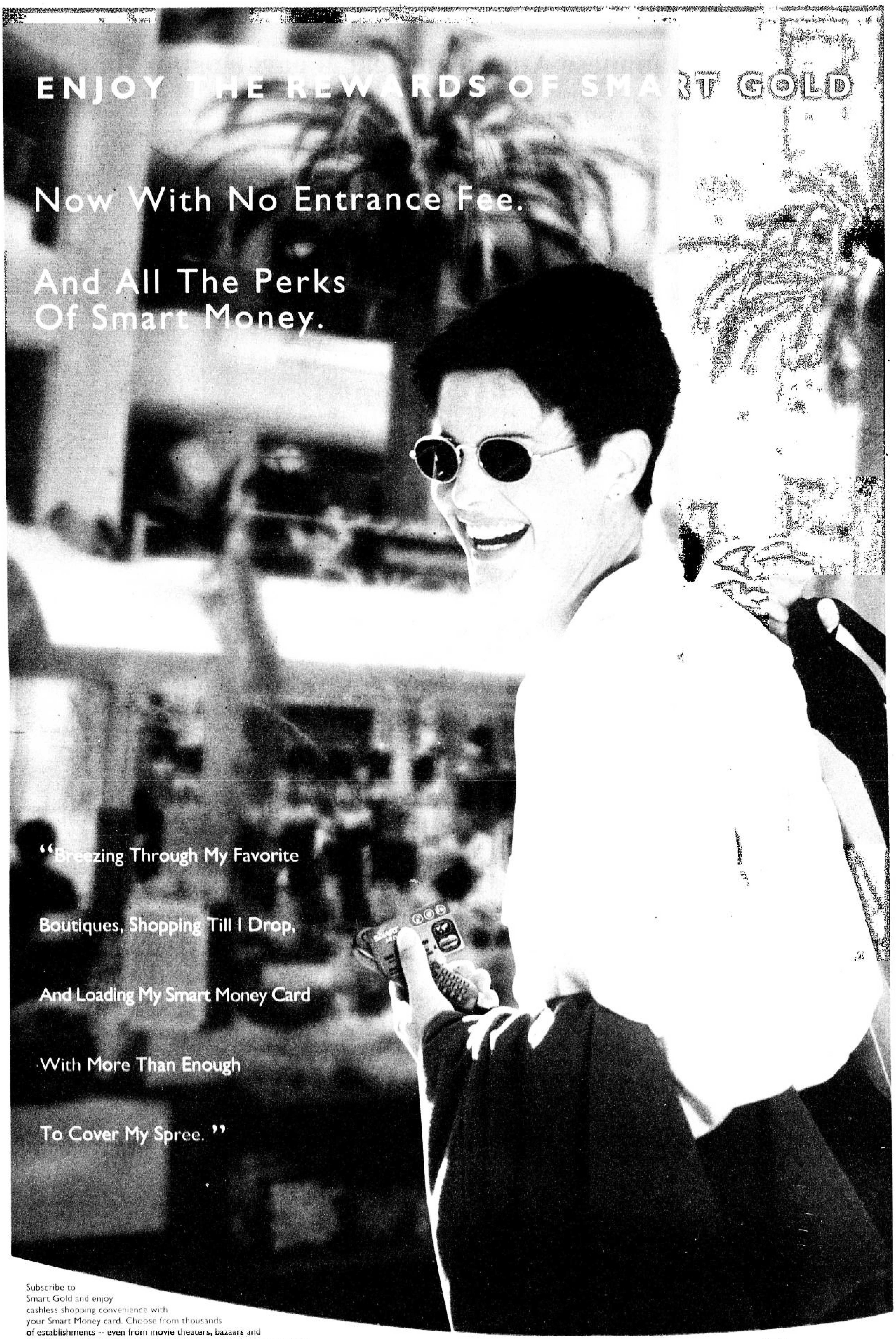
HBO will premiere later this year in Asia the 10-part miniseries "Band of Brothers." The $120-million series is the most expensive original production by HBO.

Based on Stephen Ambrose's nonfiction bestseller about a World War II US Army unit, "Band of Brothers" is executive-produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Hanks is also one of the directors of the ambitious project.

To kick off the big event, HBO has scheduled the premiere screening of the first two parts of the miniseries on June 6, the anniversary of D-Day, on the grounds of the Utah Beach Memorial in Normandy, France.

Most of the 30 remaining Easy Company veterans and their families will attend the premiere. Many of the veterans will be making their first visit to Normandy since the end of the war.

Hanks and Ambrose are expected to attend, and formal invitations have been sent to heads of state of the United States, Great Britain, France and Canada, as well as the children and/or grandchildren of Winston Churchill, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower.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MALE lead Ben Affleck and director/producer Michael Bay.

Japanese Americans fear 'Pearl Harbor' backlash

By Lawrence Kootnikoff

LOS ANGELES—For most Americans it will be a heroic tale of loss, sacrifice and redemption, ripped from the pages of history. But many Japanese Americans fear "Pearl Harbor" could generate a racist reaction.

"Pearl Harbor" the movie tells the story of the infamous Japanese attack that brought the United States into the Second World War and changed the course of world history.

> Others say the movie is more of a love story with no strong anti-Japanese sentiment

Persecution

But for Japanese Americans December 7th, 1941 meant persecution.

Three months after the attack that killed 2,300 Americans in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the order to round up 120,000 Japanese Americans on the US west coast and confine them to concentration camps for the duration of the war.

The 140-million-dollar epic, brought to life by producer Jerry Bruckheimer and director Michael Bay ("Armageddon" and "The Rock") has had one of the biggest launches in recent Hollywood memory, and is virtually guaranteed to be a box office success.

Members of the Japanese American community say the movie is more of a love story and does not express strong anti-Japanese or anti-Asian sentiment.

But they are afraid of how audiences may react.

"I'll be looking at this movie apprehensively," said Guy Aoki of the Media Action Network for Asian Americans in Los Angeles.

Enemy

"When you see a Japanese face in this movie, it's basically the enemy," Aoki said. "There are very few examples of Japanese Americans who are people helping the United States."

"It's a very emotional event in the history of the country," adds John Tateishi of The Japanese American Citizens League. "It's the only time the United States has been attacked like that."

"People forget that Japanese Americans experienced Pearl Harbor exactly like other Americans," Tateishi said Tuesday. "But added to that there was a sense of shame that that the land of our ancestors was attacking our country."

Tateishi—three at the time—and his family were sent to a camp in Manzanar, a tiny California desert community near the Nevada border.

Within two months of the attack, the US Army discharged Japanese Americans from all but two regiments in the Hawaiian National Guard.

Segregated

When the local community protested, the army established the segregated 100th Battalion/442nd Regiment, which fought in Europe and became the most decorated unit in US military history.

Harry Tanabe was one of more than 33,000 Japanese Americans who joined the US military during the war.

He and others joined the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), where their knowledge of Japanese was invaluable to allied forces in the Pacific.

"I've been following a little bit the hoopla" around 'Pearl Harbor,'" said Tanabe, now 78. He volunteered at age 19 when he was interned with his family in Topaz, Utah, and served as a frontline interrogator.

"My job was to speak to prisoners, to try to learn anything they could tell us," he said. "War is nothing romantic. It's always terrible."

Tanabe—who now lives outside Oakland, California—remembers the racism he and his family faced.

"It was there all the time, because I looked like the enemy," he said.

But even so, he plans to see the movie.

Own conclusions

"I would like to go see it and draw my own conclusions," he says.

Tateishi was able to review a draft of the script with producer Bruckheimer, and saw the movie last week at a private screening.

"The movie per se isn't provocative," he said. "The sequence of Pearl Harbor is right in the middle of the movie, and it's very graphic and spectacular. And yet it's essentially a love story."

But Tateishi fears the movie could stir up old emotions from World War II, emotions he says are never far from the surface, citing the 1982 beating death of Vincent Chin by angry Detroit autoworkers, who thought the Chinese American was Japanese.

Tanabe—who like other Japanese American veterans said he never considered sitting the war out to protest his treatment—remains "very active" in the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"I stay active," he says, "because I want everyone to know it's not what a person looks like, but what's inside of him that makes him a better man." *AFP*

Top stars in big action movies

By Remy M. Umerez

"THE MUMMY Returns" is packing them in, and "Pearl Harbor," another giant action movie, is set to explode this month.

On the local front, the scenario is pretty much the same: Three giant action movies have a June playdate: Viva Film's "Alas Dose" and "Buhay Kamao," and FLT's "Carta Alas, Huwag Ka Ng Humirit."

Why exhibit all of them this month?

Classes

June is prized by movie producers because vacation has ended and classes are about to start. Students constitute the bulk of moviegoers who patronize local and foreign films, so the timing is perfect.

"Alas Dose" has Cesar Montano and Christopher de Leon pitted against each other in a movie filled with action and suspense. The winning combination of Robin Padilla and director Joyce Bernal aims to duplicate the huge success of "Ang Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" in "Buhay Kamao." "Carta Alas" is Ace Vergel's comeback bid after three years of absence from the screen.

For Christopher de Leon, "Alas Dose" is a special movie he feels proud doing. This is the first time I am playing the adversary of a big action star. The story revolves just between the two of us," he says.

Buddies

In real life, Christopher and Cesar are buddies. In one of their outings, they expressed the desire to do a movie together. Both waited for the right project until Viva came up with "Alas Dose."

In the action caper, Christopher plays a mad bomb expert whom Cesar has to eliminate. The confrontation scenes between the two seasoned actors are exciting enough for moviegoers not to miss.

Robin Padilla and Joyce Bernal are already a tested combination at the box office. Robin's "Ang Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" with Regine

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Livia Singson de Leon heads PCSO

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ONCE the siren call of the Philippines Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the weekly sweepstakes draw has been upstaged by a sister product's more lucrative promise of Lotto winnings.

However, the new PCSO chair and board of directors aim to bring back the glory days of the game of chance for charity, when people bought tickets to help indigent beneficiaries and to have a chance at winning the top prize.

Belfry

At the helm of the national sweepstakes office which also now runs the popular Lotto draws is Livia Singson de Leon, better known to family and friends as "Honey Girl."

After several sons, the elder Singson was so overjoyed at the birth of a daughter that he reportedly ran up to the belfry of the church in their hometown in Ilocos Sur and rang the bells! And he nicknamed her Honey Girl.

She still recalls those days with nostalgia as she was her parents' pet, as well as the apple of the eye of older brother, Luis 'Chavit' Singson, the ex-president's ex-crony-turned-whistle-blower.

Honey Girl, however, can stand on her own achievements as a competent professional without her '*Manong*' as reference. Previous to her appointment as chair of the PCSO, she was the executive director of the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, which she brought closer to the people with local projects.

Decisive

Honey Girl is described by board member Margie Juico as a "hands-on executive, decisive but law-abiding, cool under fire but hot under the collar if there are things not done according to rules and protocol."

She also expects everyone to work together as a team as she is a good listener and very approachable.

The chairman is used to "danger" and intrigues as Chavit's younger sister. During the impeachment trial, she had to endure living in a safehouse with her family of three sons and daughters-in-law and her grandchildren, whom she dotes on.

She understood Chavit's fight, as he had told his siblings about his plan to expose what he knew of the *jueteng* operations of the ex-president and the bribe money from the tobacco fund in a terse and tension-filled family council.

After showing them his affidavit, he told them his mind was made up and that they should be careful as they too could be in danger.

Determined

Chavit refused to change his mind, and knowing how persevering and determined he was when he was pushed into a corner, they all pledged to be supportive and cooperative. He had battled the once-mighty Crisologos over their tobacco monopoly, so they knew he would not back down, even against the might of the presidency.

So if Honey Girl is cool and steely under fire while conducting the affairs of the PCSO, credit it to her genes. The agency is moving towards maximizing its funds for more pro-poor programs and Honey Girl will make sure that there will be no more blatant politicking with the PCSO resources.

DE LEON (seated), with PCSO board members Art Borjal, Resty de Quiros, Linggoy Alcuaz and Margie Juico.

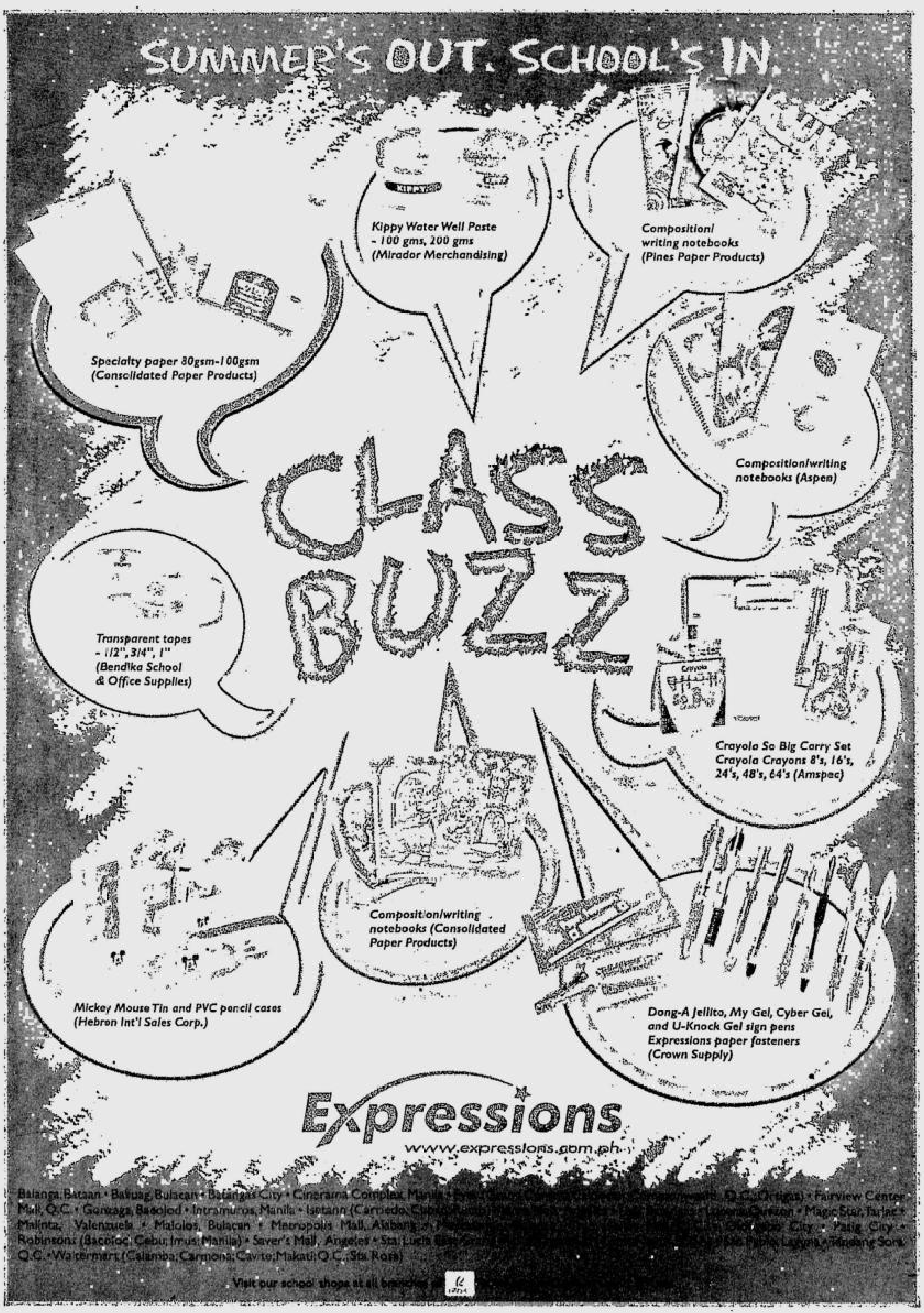
Honey Girl is a devoted wife to Guy De Leon, who is a barangay chairman. She is quite close to her sons and their wives, and even to her mother-in-law.

The other PCSO board members are Art Borjal, Resty de Quiros and Linggoy Alcuaz.

* * *

My brother Victor, Jr. or Saxo passed away at 67 years of age last May 29. He is at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish inside the UPLB campus, College, Laguna with daily mass at 8 p.m.

The Upsilon Rites by the UPLB Upsilon residents will be offered to my brother today, June 2, 7 p.m. A holy mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m., Sunday, June 3. Interment will follow at the Los Baños Memorial Garden.



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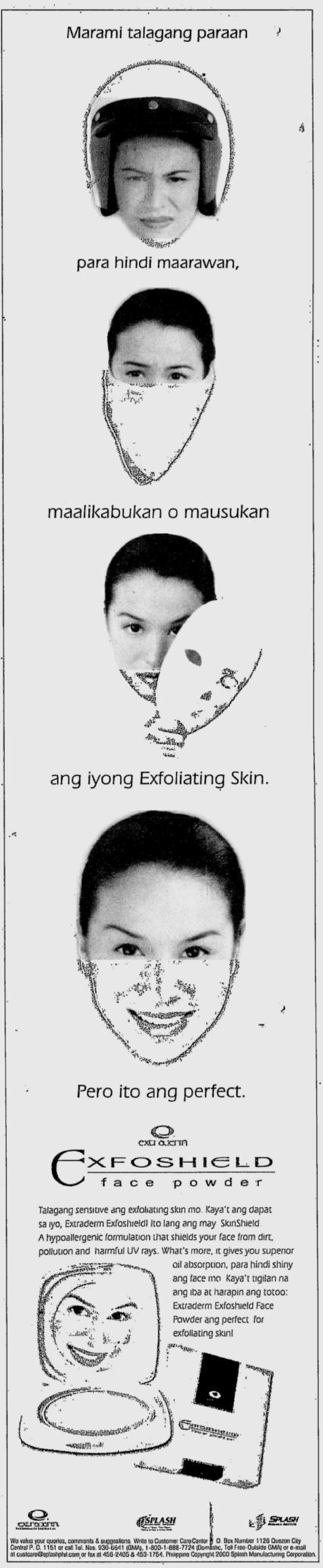

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Movies shown on television this week

By Noelani Torre

SOME outstanding films are showing on television from June 2 to 8. Here are some of them (on the HBO channel):

"Unforgiven," June 2, Saturday, 12:45 a.m., Film heavies Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman costar in this anti-Western tale of a long-retired and long-reformed hired killer forced to lift up his gun once more. Its masterful criticism of morality and hypocrisy in the Old West earned it a Best Picture Award at the Oscars, as well as Best Director (Eastwood) and Best Supporting Actor (Hackman).

"Stepmom." Directed by Chris Columbus of "Mrs. Doubtfire" fame, this poignant tale of two mothers fighting over the affections of the same children stars Academy Award winner Susan Sarandon as the kids' natural mom and Academy Award nominee Julia Roberts as the stepmom. Veteran actor Ed Harris stars as the children's father. "Stepmom" shows on June 3, Saturday at 8 p.m.

"Cape Fear." After 14 years in prison, a psychopath returns to wreak vengeance on the lawyer who sent him there. A remake of the 1962 Gregory Peck/ Robert Mitchum thriller. Director Martin Scorsese adds suspenseful psychological layers to this already tense film. Starring Robert De Niro as the psychopath, Nick Nolte as the lawyer, and Jessica Lange as the lawyer's wife. "Cape Fear" airs on June 3, Sunday at 1:50 a.m.

"Scandal." This is a fascinating dramatization of the Profumo affair, the government sex-scandal that rocked Britain in 1963. Joanne Whalley-Kilmer is perfect as naïve showgirl Christine Keeler, and John Hurt is outstanding as sexual provocateur Stephen Ward who introduces Keeler to John Profumo, the Secretary of State for War, an act which sets off a chain of events with an explosive culmination. "Scandal" burns up the screen on June 3, Sunday at 4 p.m.

"The Little Drummer Girl." This film adaptation of John Le Carré's best-selling political thriller stars Diane Keaton in the role of Charlie, a woman whose loyalties are divided between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Keaton shines with a superb and powerful performance. "The Little Drummer Girl" airs on June 4, Monday at 6 a.m.

"The Goodbye Girl." This is a Neil Simon comedy about an aspiring actor and divorcée who are forced to share an apartment in New York City. Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason give first-rate performances in this warm and funny movie. Dreyfuss's acting earned him an Oscar. "The Goodbye Girl" can be seen on June 7, Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

Other films on the HBO channel: Saturday, 6 a.m. "Sleep Easy." 7:45 a.m., "Alone With a Stranger." 9:30 a.m., "Grease 2." 11:30 a.m., "Every Mother's Worst Fear." 1:15 p.m., "Moon Over Parador." 3 p.m., "Six Months to Live." 4:30 p.m., "Jawbreaker." 6 p.m., "Home Team." 7:30 p.m., "The Fury Within." 9 p.m., "Life." 10:45 p.m., "Innerspace." 12:45 a.m., "Unforgiven." 3 a.m., "Heores." 5 a.m., "Heartwood."

Sunday, June 3, 6:30 a.m., "Children of my Heart." 8 a.m., "In My Sister's Shadow." 9:30 a.m., "In Country." 11:30 a.m., "Just Sue Me." 1:15 p.m., "Analyze This." 3 p.m., "True Believer." 4:45 p.m., "Earthly Possessions." 6:30 p.m., "Her Alibi." 8 p.m., "Stepmom." 10 p.m., "The Karate Kid Part II." 11:55 p.m., "Lansky: A True Story." 1:50 a.m., "Cape Fear." 4 a.m., "Scandal."

'Uncommon Valor'

Monday, June 4, 6 a.m., "The Little Drummer Girl." 8:15 a.m., "Uncommon Valor." 10 a.m., "The '60s." 12 p.m., "Richie Rich." 1:30 p.m., "The Perfect Nanny." 3 p.m., "Supreme Sanction." 4:30 p.m., "Stolen Women." 6 p.m., "Switching Goals." 7:30 p.m., "Dangerous Attraction." 9 p.m., "Money Talks." 10:30 p.m., "I Married a Monster." 12 a.m., "Ritchie Rich." 1:35 a.m., "Uncommon Valor." 3:15 a.m., "The Velocity of Gary." 5 a.m., "A Face to Kill For."

Tuesday, June 5, 6:30 a.m., "Six Months to Live." 8 a.m., "Home Team." 9:30 a.m., "Heartwood." 11:15 a.m., "Moon Over Parador." 1 p.m., "The Fury Within." 2:30 p.m., "Lovers Lane." 4 p.m., "Every Mother's Worst Fear." 5:30 p.m., "Heroes." 7:15 p.m., "Galaxy Quest." 9 p.m., "Without Limits." 11 p.m., "Sleep Easy." 12:40 a.m., "Moon Over Parador." 2:30 a.m., "Alone With a Stranger." 4:15 a.m., "Galaxy Quest."

CLINT Eastwood in "Unforgiven."

Wednesday, June 6, 6 a.m., "Lansky: A True Story." 8 a.m., "Scandal." 10 a.m., "The Karate Kid Part II." 12 p.m., "Her Alibi." 1:30 p.m., "Life." 3:15 p.m., "Just Sue Me." 5 p.m., "Grease 2." 7 p.m., "Midnight Run." 9 p.m., "Airspeed." 10:30 p.m. "8MM." 12:30 a.m., "In Country." 4:30 a.m., "Midnight Run."

Thursday, June 7, 6:30 a.m., "The Goodbye Girl." 8:30 a.m., "Criminal Instinct: A Colder Kind of Death." 10 a.m., "True Believer." 12 p.m., "Jawbreaker." 1:30 p.m., "I Married a Monster." 3 p.m., "The '60s." 5:15 p.m., "In My Sister's Shadow." 7 p.m., "Innerspace." 9 p.m., "Earthly Possessions." 11 p.m., "Analyze This." 12:40 a.m., "The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax." 2:15 a.m., "Little Nikita." 4 a.m., "Innerspace."

'Bird on a Wire'

Friday, June 8, 6 a.m., "Switching Goals." 7:30 a.m., "Mother Night." 9:30 a.m., "Unforgiven." 11:45 a.m., "Home Team." 1:30 p.m., "Stepmom." 3:30 p.m., "Children of My Heart." 5:15 p.m., "Flashdance." 7 p.m., "Cape Fear." 9 p.m., "Bird on a Wire." 11 p.m., "Lovers Lane." 12:30 a.m., "Stepmom." 2:30 a.m., "Unforgiven." 4:45 a.m., "Alone with a Stranger."

Outstanding films on the Cinemax channel:

"Chances Are." Cybill Shepherd, Ryan O'Neal, Robert Downey, Jr., and Mary Stuart Masterson star in this sweet and fantastical romantic comedy about a much-loved husband who comes back from the dead in another man's body. "Chances Are" airs on June 2, Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

"Once Upon a Time in America." Director Sergio Leone's near epic-length homage to the gangster era traces the fortunes of Jewish childhood friends on New York City's Lower East Side. Robert De Niro and James Woods outdo each other in their compelling performances in this engrossing film that encompasses 40 years of American history. "Once Upon a Time in America" is featured on June 2, Saturday at 1:45 a.m.

"Bob Roberts." Tim Robbins writes, directs and stars in this witty political satire about a cynical senatorial candidate who knows how to capture an audience and pull the media's strings. Stimulating and musical (Roberts is a folk-singer), this film is well worth watching for the funny cameo appearances of several famous actors. "Bob Roberts" airs on June 4, Monday at 4 p.m.

"The Cotton Club." A stylish homage to the melodious and dangerous world of Harlem nightlife in the '20s and '30s, this Francis Ford Coppola film stars Richard Gere, Gregory Hines, Diane Lane and Bob Hoskins. Gere is a cornet player (he does his own solos) whose dreams of becoming a movie star are crushed when his past catches up with him. Catch "The Cotton Club" on June 6, Wednesday at 9 p.m.

"This Is Spinal Tap." This 1984 classic is a realistic parody of a "rockumentary" about an aging British heavy metal band's latest American tour. Director Rob Reiner plays the "rockumentary" director. Cunning and insightful, the film manages to appear "real" through behind-the-scenes footage and fake concert clips. "This is Spinal Tap" airs on June 6, Wednesday at 5 a.m.

"Harper." Based on Ross Macdonald's "The Moving Target," this fast-paced mystery stars Paul Newman in the title role. Lauren Bacall plays a rich socialite who hires a detective, Harper, to find her missing husband. Action-packed and sophisticated, the film also stars Janet Leigh and Robert Wagner. "Harper" is featured on June 7, Thursday at 3:45 a.m.

Other films on the Cinemax channel:

Saturday, June 2, 6 a.m., "Nadine." 7:30 a.m., "Quick." 9 a.m., "Inconceivable." 10:30 a.m., "The Philadelphia Experiment." 12:15 p.m., "Small Soldiers." 2 p.m., "Scream of Fear." 3:30 p.m., "Chances Are." 5:30 p.m., "Once Around." 7:30 p.m., "Alien Cargo." 9 p.m., "Dick." 10:30 p.m., "Quick." 12:05 a.m., "The Philadelphia Experiment." 1:45 a.m., "Once Upon a Time in America." 5:15 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Richard Gere."

'Blast from the Past'

Sunday, June 3, 6 a.m., "The Master of Ballantrae." 8:30 a.m., "The Last Marshall." 10:15 a.m., "Detroit Rock City." 11:45 a.m., "Future Kick." 1 p.m., "Blast from the Past." 2:45 p.m., "Streets of Fire." 4:15 p.m., "The Last Innocent Man." 6 p.m., "When Justice Fails." 7:30 p.m., "Cold Harvest." 9 p.m., "Baseketball." 10:45 p.m., "The Last Marshall." 12:20 a.m., "The Companion." 1:50 a.m., "The Darwin Conspiracy." 3:15 a.m., "Detroit Rock City." 4:45 a.m., "The Wackiest Ship in the Army."

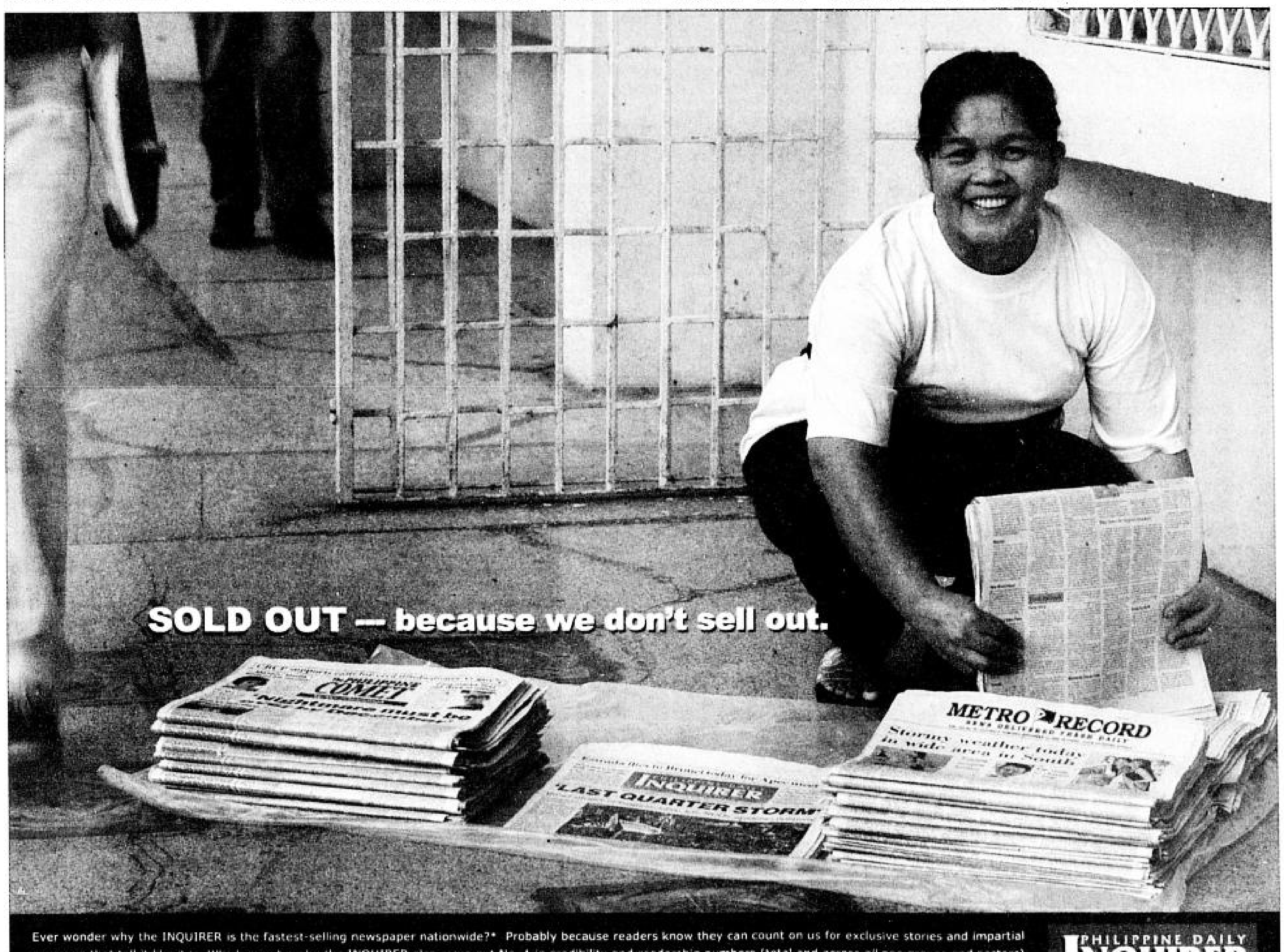
Monday, June 4, 6:30 a.m., "Walker." 8 a.m., "Chances Are." 9:45 a.m., "Alien Cargo." 11:15 a.m., "Deadly Desire." 12:45 p.m., "Restraining Order." 2:15 p.m., "Blue Ridge Fall." 4 p.m., "Bob Roberts." 5:45 p.m., "Dennis the Menace Strikes Again!" 7 p.m., "What Dreams May Come." 9 p.m., "History is Made at Night." 10:30 p.m., "High Desert Kill." 12:05 a.m., "The Gunrunner." 1:30 a.m., "Restraining Order." 3 a.m., "Dennis the Menace Strikes Again!" 4:15 a.m., "So Close to Paradise."

Tuesday, June 5, 6 a.m., "Scream of Fear." 7:15 a.m., "Second Best." 9 a.m., "Tequila Body Shots." 10:45 a.m., "The Wackiest Ship in the Army." 12:30 p.m., "Plunkett and Macleane." 2:15 p.m., "Stingray." 4 p.m., "Baby Brokers." 5:30 p.m., "The Man Who Captured Eichmann." 7:15 p.m., "Shocker." 9 p.m., "Life in a Day." 10:30 p.m., "Plunkett and Macleane." 12:10 a.m., "Tequila Body Shots." 1:50 a.m., "Hexed." 3:30 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Gerard Depardieu." 4:15 a.m., "Shocker."

Wednesday, June 6, 6 a.m., "The Man Who Wasn't There." 7:45 a.m., "Aldrich Ames: Trait or Within." 9:30 a.m., "Once Around." 11:30 a.m., "Universal Soldier: The Return." 1 p.m., "Walker." 2:30 p.m., "Future Kick." 3:45 p.m., "The Night Walker." 5:15 p.m., "High Desert Kill." 6:45 p.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Richard Gere." 7:30 p.m., "The Darwin Conspiracy." 9 p.m., "The Cotton Club." 11 p.m., "Universal Soldier: The Return." 12:25 a.m., "Future Kick." 1:45 a.m., "The Infiltrator." 3:15 a.m., "High Desert Kill." 5 a.m., "This is Spinal Tap."

Thursday, June 7, 6:30 a.m., "In Vino Veritas." 8 a.m., "The Last Marshall." 9:45 a.m. "The Philadelphia Experiment." 11:30 a.m., "Blue Chips." 1:15 p.m., "Detroit Rock City." 2:45 p.m., "Small Soldiers." 4:30 p.m., "Crackers." 6 p.m., "Deadly Desire." 7:30 p.m., "Ringmaster." 9 p.m., "The Warden." 10:45 p.m., "The Philadelphia Experiment." 12:25 a.m., "Detroit Rock City." 2 a.m., "The Last Marshall." 3:45 a.m., "Harper."

Friday, June 8, 6 a.m., "So Close to Paradise." 7:30 a.m., "The Last Innocent Man." 9:30 a.m., "Nadine." 11 a.m., "Cold Harvest." 12:45 p.m., "Chances Are." 2:30 p.m., "Second Best." 4:15 p.m., "Inconceivable." 5:45 p.m., "The Gunrunner." 7:15 p.m., "Curly Sue." 9 p.m., "Blind Heat." 10:30 p.m., "Cold Harvest." 12:05 a.m., "Streets of Fire." 1:40 a.m., "The Last Innocent Man." 3:30 a.m., "Chances Are." 5:30 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Richard Gere."



Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide?* Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across *all* age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). **To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.**

*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

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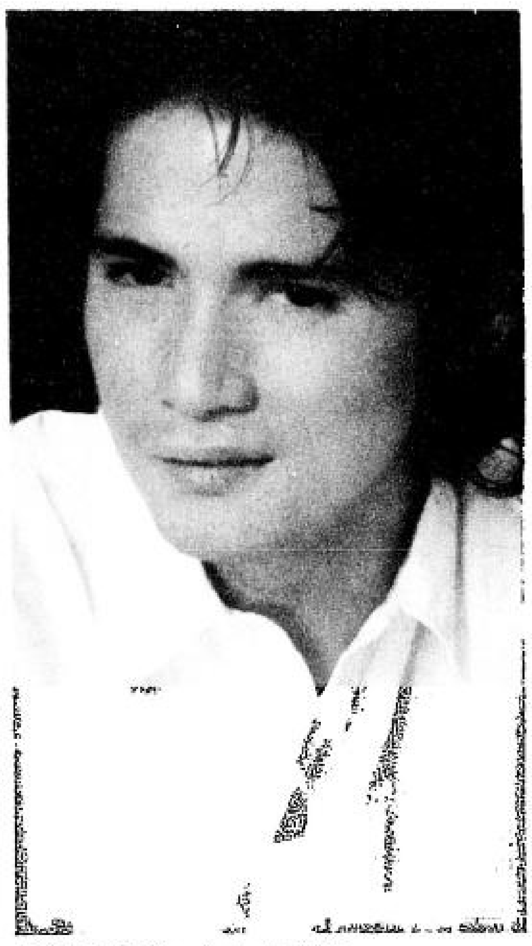

PADILLA. No stunt doubles.

Top stars in big action movies

(From page D6)

Velasquez transformed the action star into a romantic hero, a gamble which paid off handsomely at the box office. For this and other blockbuster hits, Robin was adjudged "Box-office King."

Box-office history is bound to repeat itself with the forthcoming release (on June 12 to be exact) of "Buhay Kamao" where, for the third time, Robin gets to work with Bernal.

Robin is a boxer forced to fight to raise money after his father meets a vehicular accident. But when his father learns that the fight has been fixed, he orders a rematch and tells his son to claim victory at the very end.

Robin had to train for six months just to be physically fit for the film. He was up at four in the morning and would run from Cubao to Makati.

Fight scenes

No stunt doubles were used in his fight scenes with David Bunevacz. "*Gusto ni Direk* Joyce *ay totohanang away*. It is like watching a real boxing match and this is where I applied all the techniques my coach taught me," he says.

"But when I saw the rough cuts, I felt happy *dahil sulit ang lahat ng aking mga paghihirap.*"

Robin enjoys working with Joyce because her ideas are fresh and innovative. Her pacing is as sharp as the dialogue in the script.

It is sad that two big action films have to be shown on the same playdate, as is the case with "Alas Dose" versus "Carta Alas." Producers have learned to cope with the situation, saying they have no hand in choosing the playdates given to them by the bookers.

Ace Vergel makes a comeback bid in "Carta Alas," megged by Joe Carreon. It is a rehash of "Batang Quiapo" with Antoinette Taus in the role previously played by Maricel Soriano.

Ace has not been active in films since he was busy threshing out his personal problems. FLT producers claim he has not lost his magic touch on the screen. They are confident that they have a strong winner in "Carta Alas" because no Ace Vergel starrer has flopped at the box office.

*Saturday*SPECIAL

Academy Award winners live longer, study shows

By Michael Rubinkam

KATHARINE Hepburn--with a record four Oscars--turned 94 last month.

PHILADELPHIA—Oscar winners live nearly four years longer than their colleagues, according to a study that credits the "You like me! You really like me!" effect of an Academy Award on an actor's self-esteem.

Accomplishment

"Once you get the Oscar, it gives you an inner sense of peace and accomplishment that can last for your entire life, and that alters the way your body copes with stress on a day-

ACADEMY/p.E2

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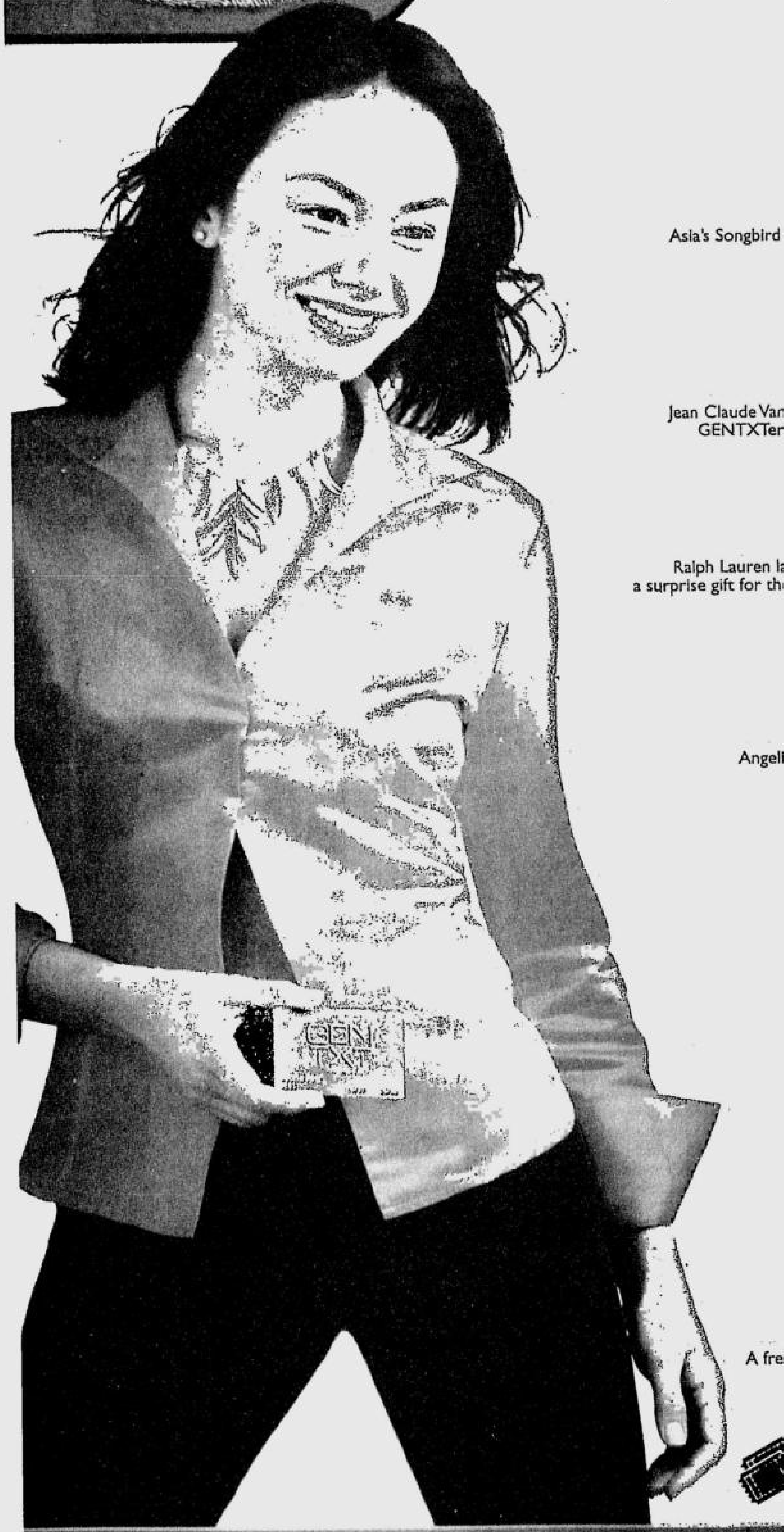

GEN TXT

June Gig Guide

"Oye!" Sabor Latino at The Abbey — 1
Catch the Latin fever with top rate Latin music and dance with Sabor Latino band! First 50 GENTXTers get VIP passes to the event.
>> The Abbey, Cebu - 7:30 PM**

Crossover Presents: Regine — 7
Asia's Songbird serenades lucky GENTXTers in a night of stirring ballads. First 5 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 6 get a pair of tickets.
>>Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental - 8:00 PM*

"The Replicant", Advanced Screening — 11
(in cooperation with DWTM)
Jean Claude Van Damme turns evil in this action-packed thriller about a crazed serial killer. First 50 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 8 get a pair of free movie invites.
>> SM Megamall Cinema 11 - 7:30 PM*

Ralph Launch — 16&17
Ralph Lauren launches its newest fragrance for women, Ralph, with a double treat for GENTXTers: a surprise gift for the first 1,000 GENTXTers and movie invites for the first 40 GENTXTers at the event to download the special ringtone and the Ralph logo on the first day.
>> North Court, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM

"Tomb Raider", Advanced Screening — 20
(in cooperation with Channel E!)
Angelina Jolie slinks into character as video game heroine Lara Croft. First 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications starting June 19 get a pair of free invites.
>>Louie's THX Cinema- 7:30 PM*

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Columbia Pictures Asia announces four new films

ANG Lee's success in Hollywood has inspired the production of other films with a strongly Asian flavor.

COLUMBIA Pictures Film Production Asia (CPFPA), the Hong Kong-based unit of Sony Pictures Entertainment, and the company that co-produced the Academy Award-winning worldwide hit "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," announces four new motion pictures with a line-up of talent from both East and West.

Barbara Robinson, managing director of CPFPA, stated: "Asian-produced films are gaining a worldwide reputation and are also attracting top-level Western talent. We plan to continue the success of award-winning films like "Crouching Tiger" by combining the best of Eastern and Western filmmaking talent and this slate reflects this.

Commitment

Gareth Wigan, vice chairman of Columbia Tristar Motion Picture Group, remarked, "These productions underscore Columbia's continuing commitment to the Asian market. We have great confidence that they will also excite audiences around the world."

In addition to "Crouching Tiger," CPFPA, which was established under the leadership of Barbara Robinson in April of 1998, has also launched such successful and high-profile films as Zhang Yimou's "Not One Less" (winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival), and "The Road Home" (winner of the Jury Grand Prix at the Berlin Film Festival).

"The Road Home" stars Zhang Ziyi and will be released in the US by Sony Pictures Classics.

Features

CPFPA also produced Tsui Hark's internationally renowned "Time and Tide," which was released throughout Asia last year and opened in the US last month.

Starting principal photography are the features, "Big Shot's Funeral" and "Double Vision."

"Big Shot's Funeral," a comedy from China's top box-office director Feng Xiaogang, stars Donald Sutherland ("Space Cowboys"). Sutherland is no stranger to China, having starred in director Phillip Borsos' 1990 China production "Bethune. The Making of a Hero."

The film also stars Paul Mazursky ("Enemies: A Love Story," and director of "Moscow on the Hudson") alongside Chinese star Ge You (1994 Cannes Best Actor winner in Zhang Yimou's "To Live"), and one of the most popular actresses in Hong Kong, Rosamund Kwan ("Once Upon a Time in China").

Written by Feng, Li Xiaoming and Shi Kang, the film spins a comical tale of a world-famous director, Don Tyler (Sutherland), who has come to China to make an epic about the last emperor of the Qing dynasty.

Tyler befriends a down-on-his-luck Chinese cameraman but things go awry when the director apparently falls into coma and the cameraman is placed in charge of preparations for the director's grand funeral.

"Big Shot's Funeral" is co-produced with China's Huayi Brothers Film Co. and the Beijing Film Studio.

Taoist twist

"Double Vision" is a "Seven"-like suspense mystery thriller with a Taoist twist directed by Chen Kuo-Fu

COLUMBIA/p.E3

One film, two directors

By Norma Japitana

THE SCENE opened on the set of "Alas Dose," a Viva Films project that started shooting a full year ago. Which means that with "Mananabas," Cesar Montano and I were line-producing *two* film projects with shooting schedules running against each other.

Director Augie Salvador was at the helm in the FPJ studio location for the torture scene of Christopher de Leon.

There was Boyet, naked and wearing a wig. This was supposed to be the younger Boyet. Direk Augie, working with all those lights in this dungeon scene, was still as cool as ever. He is a gentleman director and a joy to work with. Which is why I should mention why we have a new director.

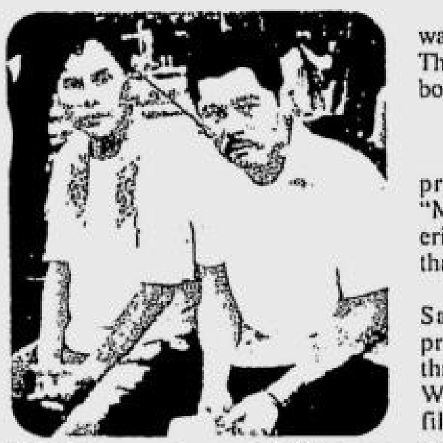
We started "Alas Dose" with director Edrik Matti. As usual with a movie of this magnitude, we all started with high hopes. Having two great actors like Christopher de Leon and Cesar Montano is a monumental casting coup of sorts.

We are also comfortable working with Viva. Vic del Rosario, Tess Cruz and Vincent del Rosario are like family to me. Cesar also acknowledges that his first break was given by Viva. And Hermie Go coordinates all our line-produced projects with Viva with drive, enthusiasm and fun.

Wedding

Matti was proposed by Boss Vic and soon Cesar and Boyet were caught up in the enthusiasm of working with a director with fresh ideas. At the start we were delayed by the wedding of Cesar and Sunshine and the travels of Boyet and Cesar out of the country—and by the fact that Erik works two days a week on his TV commitments while Cesar has to tape his "Kaya ni Mister…" on Mondays. That left about three days a week for the two stars and their director to work together. But even with this, we were hoping to finish by November last year.

Boyet and Cesar made themselves free to finish "Alas Dose" last November and December, but our director was getting scarce and hard to reach. When weeks went by with no results despite Hermie Go's efforts, I wrote Vic, Vincent and Erik, working for a schedule so we could finish the movie.



BEHN Cervantes and Christopher de Leon during a shooting break.

At that Dec. 7 meeting with Eric, Vic and Vincent, Erik gave us seven days' schedule to film. Then we were told a few days after that he could not make it on those seven days.

Then he left for Bacolod City on Dec. 15 and came back Jan. 15, 2001. He said his wife gave birth in Bacolod.

Next, he gave us several days in January, something like Jan. 26, 27, 28 and 29. But, when the days promised came, we were told by his staff that he was again too busy to shoot with us. Then we read that he was directing a bold movie with Rica Peralejo.

Another project

Cesar decided to do another project. We started filming "Mananabas" Feb. 20 under Maverick Films. In March, Viva agreed that we change directors.

Happily, we got director Augie Salvador to agree to finish the project. We had practically gone through a lifetime in "Alas Dose." When Cesar and Sunshine started filming, they were lovers. Then they got married Sept. 14, 2000 and now Sunshine is five months pregnant with their first child. That's how long "Alas Dose" was in our lives.

This week, we were shooting in Antipolo. The scene was the confrontation between Boyet, Cesar, Sunshine and Behn Cervantes. Behn was supposed to drive the get-away car, but because Behn cannot drive, Glen Parian had to drive the car without being seen.

Sunshine's costume was getting tighter and we had to cut a hole in the back to support her enlarged breasts. She had to wear a jacket over this for cover.

CESAR Montano with Patricia Javier in "Alas Dose."

For "Mananabas," the location moved to La Mesa Dam. It was in a forested area with very tall trees with trunks that take two persons to enclose. This was the nightmare version of a dream of Cesar's character.

Hole

The set-up to light the trees and the surrounding areas took more than an hour. Our production design department had to dig a hole ground where they put the girls and the flowers. The scene needed two girls. One would be filmed without her head and the other, Jopay, our leading lady, would be shown with just her head. The effect was that of a woman who was beheaded, with her body and head in different places.

Next, our director asked for a girl who was willing to bare. Pidiong, our legman, went off to the clubs nearby. The girl had to have the physical proportions of Jopay, a Mutya beauty queen.

Pidiong and Mon Rivera (our fight instructor) found a body double. Her face was not so striking and some *usiseros* snickered at the sight of her. But our director said, "*Katawan* lang *niya ang kailangan ko.*" And sure enough, when we asked her to lift her blouse, *makinis naman.* *(To be concluded)*

Academy Award winners live longer, study shows

(From page E1)

to-day basis," said Dr. Donald A. Redelmeier, a professor of medicine at the University of Toronto and co-author of the study.

Despite how actors like to say that just being nominated is the important thing, just being nominated doesn't do anything for longevity.

The study found that Oscar winners live nearly four years longer than either actors who were never nominated or those who were nominated and did not win.

Multiple winners are even more fortunate, living an average of six years longer than their silver-screen counterparts.

The study was published in Tuesday's Annals of Internal Medicine.

Redelmeier and co-author Sheldon Singh said the results cannot simply be explained away by higher income, because even Academy Award also-rans tend to be wealthy and can afford good health care.

Editorial

In an accompanying editorial, public health scholar Ray Fitzpatrick agreed: "Social status itself, regardless of associated material and economic advantages, may confer health benefits."

The study included all 762 actors and actresses ever nominated for an Academy Award in a leading or supporting role. For each nominee, researchers also identified an actor of the same gender and roughly the same age who appeared in the same film with the nominee.

A total of 772 actors and actresses died by March 28, 2000.

On average, award winners lived to the age of 79.7, while non-winners lived to be 75.8.

HELEN Hayes reached 92.

Examples

Examples of long-lived Oscar-winners abound. John Gielgud, who won for "Arthur," was 96 when he died last year. George Burns ("The Sunshine Boys") lived to 100. Leading lady Greer Garson ("Mrs. Miniver") reached 92. So did Helen Hayes ("The Sin of Madelon Claudet," "Airport").

Katharine Hepburn—with a record four Academy Awards—turned 94 last month.

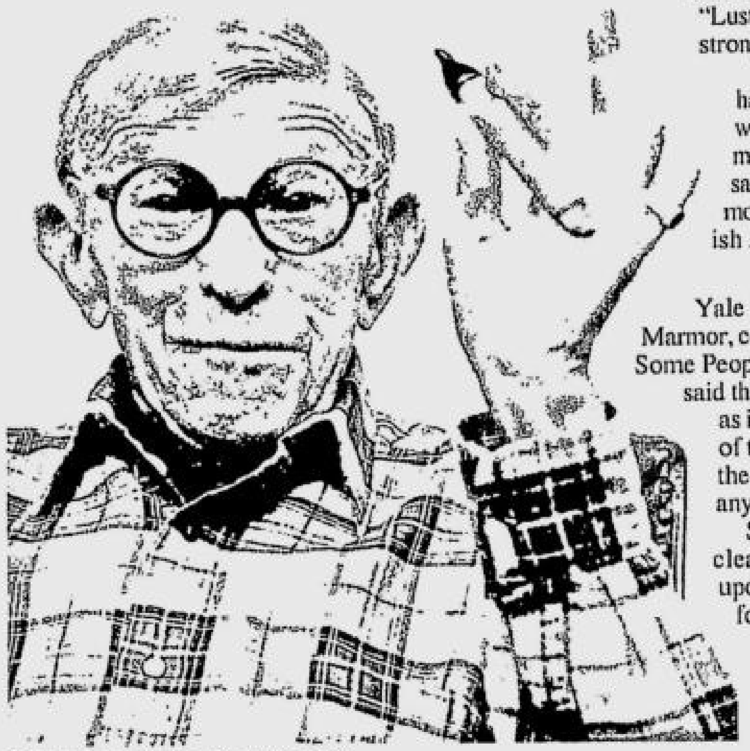
Anthony Quinn, who won best supporting actor for "Viva Zapata!" in 1952 and "Lust for Life" in 1956, is still going strong at 86.

"I'm very glad. It means I have eight more years to 94. And with the four other nominations, maybe I'll make it to 100," he said. Quinn was nominated twice more for Oscars and twice for British Academy Awards.

Anxiety

Yale University scholar Theodore Marmor, co-editor of the book "Why Are Some People Healthy and Others Not?," said that people who win Oscars feel as if they have taken care of "one of the great sources of anxiety in the world of entertainment: 'Will anybody notice?'"

Sally Field, now 54, made that clear in her acceptance speech upon winning her second Oscar for "Places in the Heart," in 1984. "The first time I didn't feel it," she said. But now, I can't deny the fact that you like me! Right now, you really like me!" *AP*



GEORGE Burns lived to 100.

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Columbia Pictures Asia . . .

SUTHERLAND stars in a comedy from China's Feng Xiaogang.

(From page E1)

(who directed the award-winning feature "The Personals"), and stars Hong Kong's Tony Leung Ka Fai (Jean-Jacques Annaud's "The Lover") and US actor David Morse ("Proof of Life," "The Green Mile").

Rene Liu, an award-winning Taiwanese actress ("The Personals"), will co-star. The feature, which started principal photography in early April in Taiwan, was co-written by director Chen Kuo-Fu and Su Tzao Bing and is produced by Nan Fang Productions. In addition, Academy Award winner Tim Yip ("Crouching Tiger") is the Art Director.

"Double Vision" follows the story of a mysterious serial killer being tracked by a dogged Taiwan police detective (Leung) and an American FBI expert (Morse) brought in to join him in the chase.

Also, scheduled to begin production later this year is the yet to be titled action film directed by Corey Yuen, and the adventure epic "Heroes of Heaven and Earth."

The Corey Yuen project is a hi-octane tale of technological wizardry and family bonds. One of the most sought-after directors in the region, Corey Yuen has also made a name for himself directing and choreographing many of Jet Li's most successful Chinese films, as well as such US pictures as "X-Men" and "Romeo Must Die," and most recently Revolution's "The One" for director James Wong.

Art house hit

"Heroes of Heaven anti Earth" will be directed by He Ping ("Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker") one of China's most acclaimed filmmakers and no stranger to the US market. "Red Firecracker" was an international art house hit and was released by October Films in the US. He Ping's most recent film, "Sun Valley" was shown in competition at the Berlin Film Festival in 1996 and distributed in the US by Miramax.

"Heroes of Heaven and Earth" stars Jiang Wen, considered one of China's most gifted and popular actors ("Red Sorghum") as well as an award-winning director. His first film "In The Heat of Sun" won the Best Actor Award at the Venice Film Festival, and his "Devils On The Doorstep" took the Grand Prix at the 2000 Cannes International Film Festival.

Completing the production line-up is the renowned cinematographer Zhao Fei ("Sweet and Lowdown;" "Raise The Red Lantern") who has just finished his third Woody Allen film, "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion."

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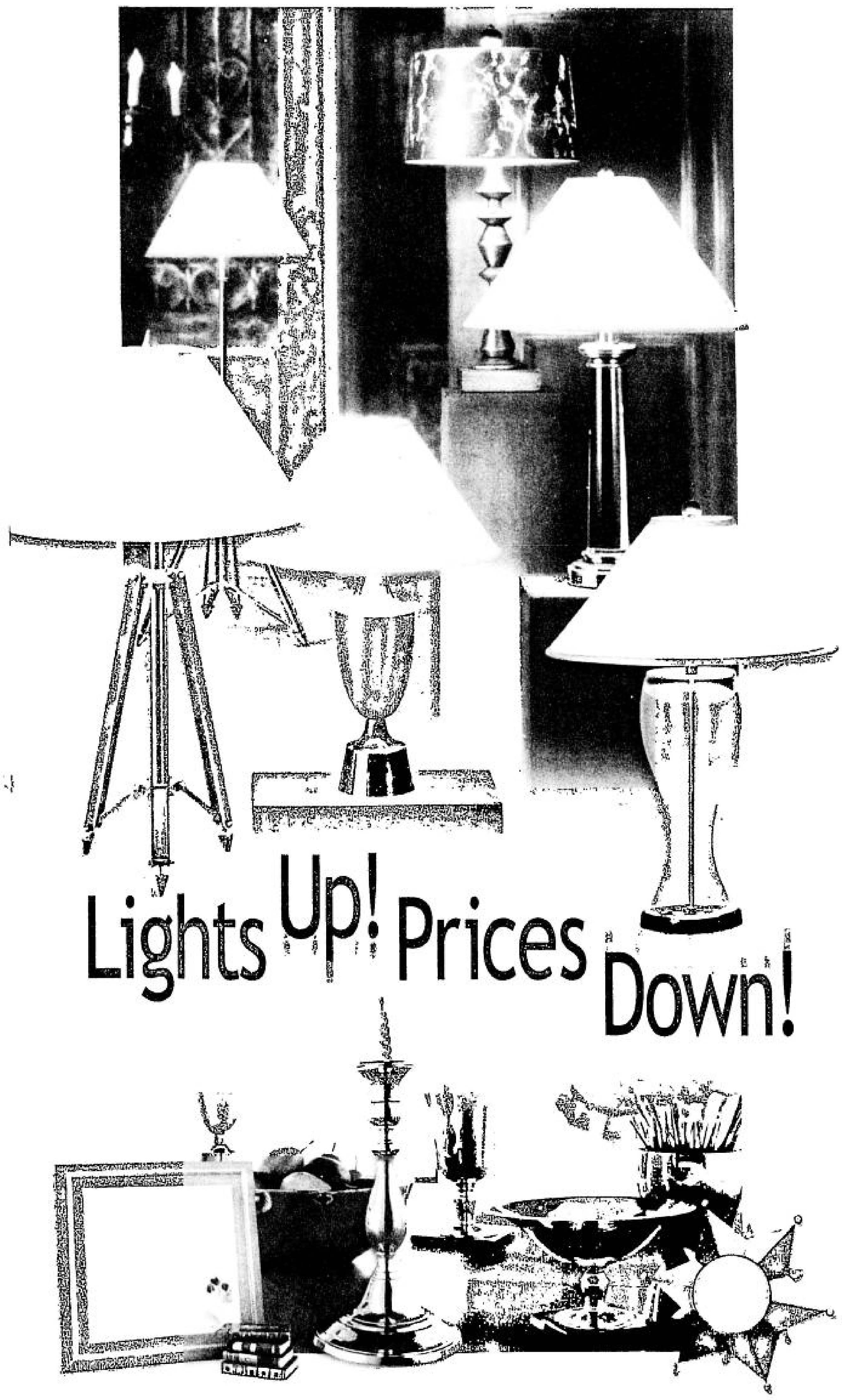

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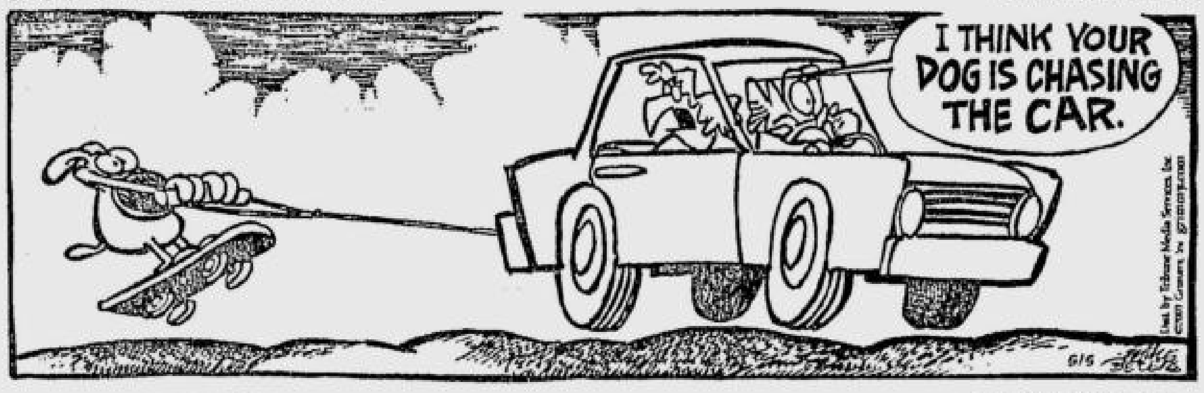
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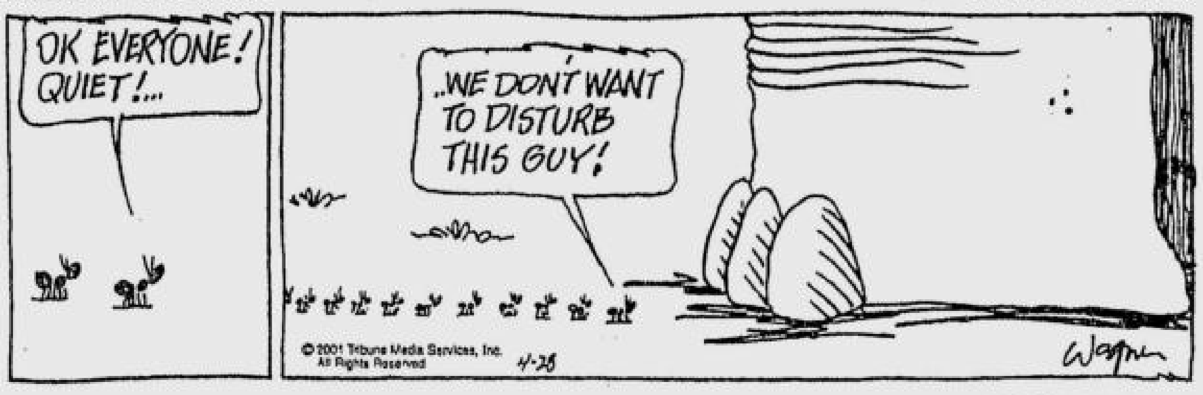
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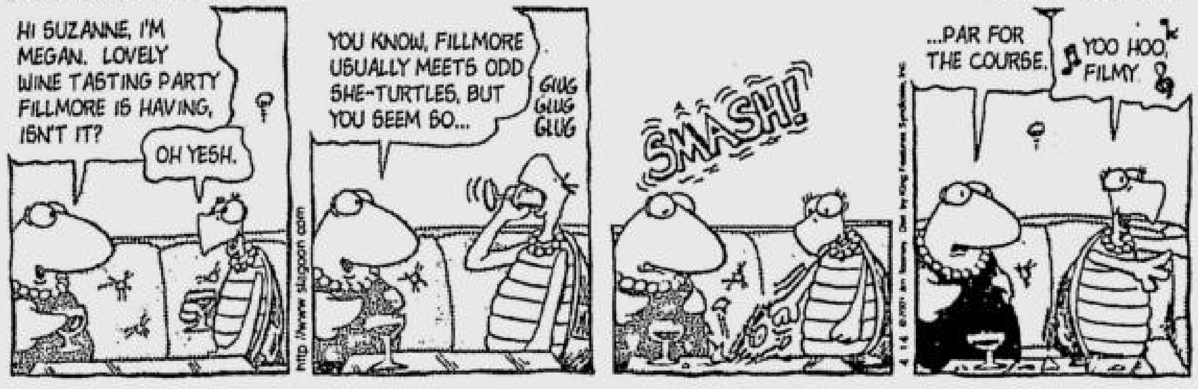
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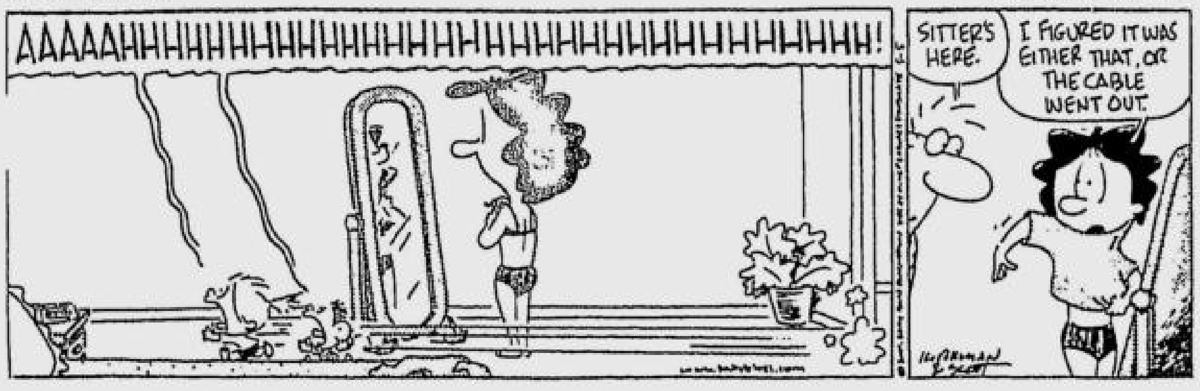
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HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Charlie Watts, Stacy Keach, Charles Haid, Sally Kellerman, Dana Carvey, Marvin Hamlisch, Jerry Mathers, Joanna Gleason

Happy Birthday: Don't let uncertainties stand in the way of your success this year. Stop procrastinating. It's up to you to make your life better and to follow your dreams. You can achieve more than you ever thought possible if you leap with both feet. Your numbers: 9, 15, 23, 27, 31, 33

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Love relationships will not run as smoothly as you hoped. Don't be too quick to judge others before looking at your own actions. You can't say that you haven't been tempted to see someone else.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities may not be as they appear. Ask pertinent questions if there is any point that isn't clear. Back away from the deal if you're asked to use your own money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get out and socialize with friends. You should be looking into ways of making yourself the best that you can be. Don't become angry over competitive games. Keep in mind that they're for fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your emotional partner may be treating you unjustly. Don't allow anyone to take advantage of your giving nature. Nervous tension may cause stomach problems.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't believe everything you hear today. Hidden matters will change the outcome of any personal situation. You may be forced to deal with someone you don't respect at work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Money matters will cause frustration. Don't lend money to friends or family. They aren't likely to divulge the real reason they want it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your emotional state will be hard for your family to deal with. You will fall in love easily and probably not to the right person. It would be wise to protect your heart and money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be eager to make changes around the house, but don't keep your partner in the dark. He or she won't like your ideas as much as you do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Involvement in groups and organizations will be conducive to romantic interludes. Your contributions will be well-received and enhance your reputation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Uncertainties surrounding travel will cause anxiety. Be agreeable to those you live with. You won't be able to change things, so you might as well go along.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will pick up valuable knowledge. Your popularity will grow, and people in a position of authority will help you achieve your goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't ignore minor health problems. If you're tempted to become involved with someone you've just met, be careful. That person may be giving you a line. Make sure he or she isn't already married.

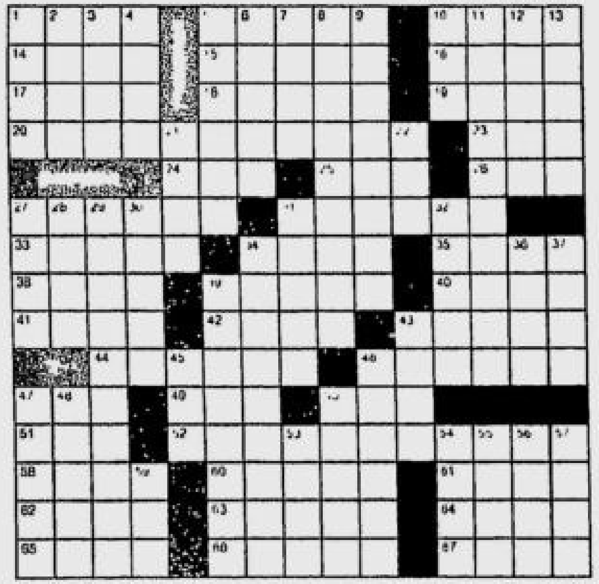
Birthday Baby: You are in high energy and very persuasive. You know how to get what you want and how to charm the opposition. You are dynamic and quite the daredevil.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Actress Lena
5 Early TV jungle hero
10 __ Strauss
14 Used to be
15 Flee to wed
16 Midterm
17 Tibetan teacher
18 Stoppage of breathing
19 Sicilian spouter
20 Follow-up to a flat tire?
23 Std.
24 Amtrak stop: abbr.
25 Unused
26 Lemon drink
27 Account entries
31 Row of suspects
33 Idolize
34 Exertion
35 Scale sound
38 Short skirt
39 Resides
40 One of a pride
41 Erwin and Gilliam
42 Fire-sale words
43 Cry of completion
44 Himalayan guide, e.g.
46 State gambling schemes
47 Resistance unit
49 In the past
50 Opposing position
51 Hula hoop?
52 Military backup?
58 Disney chipmunk
60 Pacific island group
61 Out of the wind
62 Nights before
63 Supporting loop
64 Grow weary
65 Cozy spot
66 Lauder of cosmetics
67 English school

DOWN
1 Hooters
2 Hurdle
3 "My Friend __"
4 In the neighborhood
5 Bounces back
6 Dominant male
7 Midler film, "Drowning __"
8 Italian range
9 Litmus paper and methylene blue
10 Jeans brand
11 Star of David feature?
12 Like a windmill
13 Spin doctor's concern
21 Punta del __ Uruguay
22 Ram's mate
27 Stream blocks
28 Cut and splice
29 Standish in addition to Coverdale?
30 South Bend eleven
31 Durrell novel
32 Dark
34 Sink adjuncts
36 Nation on the Gulf of Guinea
37 Seth's son
39 Generosity of spirit
43 Rover's treat
45 Hearing organ
46 Unusually tall seasoning plant
47 Of times past
48 Lift and toss
50 Old hag
53 Send forth
54 London gallery
55 Came to earth
56 Pianist Peter
57 Avid
59 Erhard's group



By Jim Page
New York, NY

4/17/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	B	C	D	E	F	■	G	B	S	■	S	P	A	M
L	O	U	I	S	A	■	H	E	P	■	P	L	O	D
M	A	R	I	L	U	■	I	N	I	T	I	A	L	S
A	T	T	■	■	N	I	J	I	N	S	K	Y	■	■
■	■	■	S	H	A	N	K	S	■	A	E	S	O	P
B	L	A	M	E	■	F	L	O	O	R	■	B	R	A
R	I	M	E	R	■	O	M	N	I	■	E	Y	E	R
A	N	A	L	O	G	■	■	■	L	A	P	E	L	S
H	E	L	L	■	A	N	N	A	■	C	E	A	S	E
M	U	G	■	D	R	O	O	L	■	M	E	R	E	S
S	P	A	T	E	■	S	P	O	K	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	M	Y	S	T	I	Q	U	E	■	■	M	A	O
S	T	A	R	C	H	E	R	■	A	S	M	A	N	Y
A	L	T	O	■	E	S	S	■	N	U	A	N	C	E
G	O	E	S	■	O	T	T	■	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

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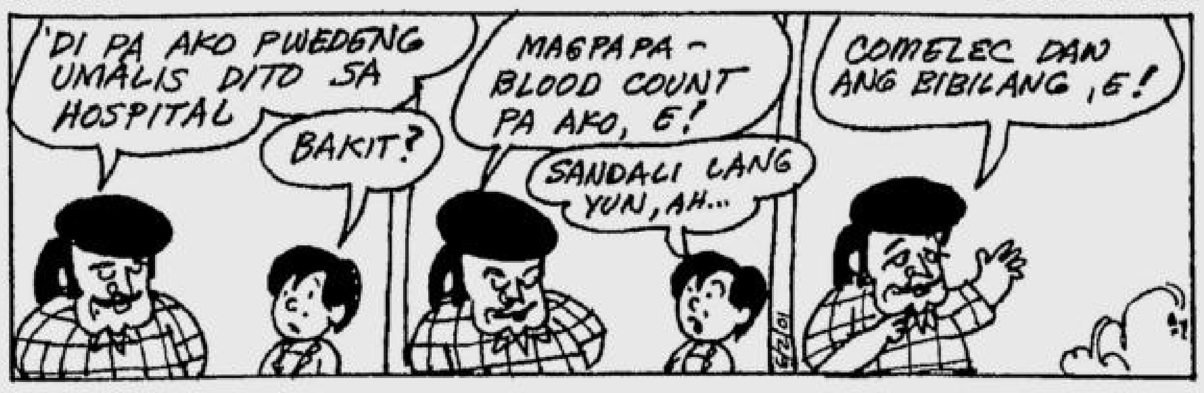
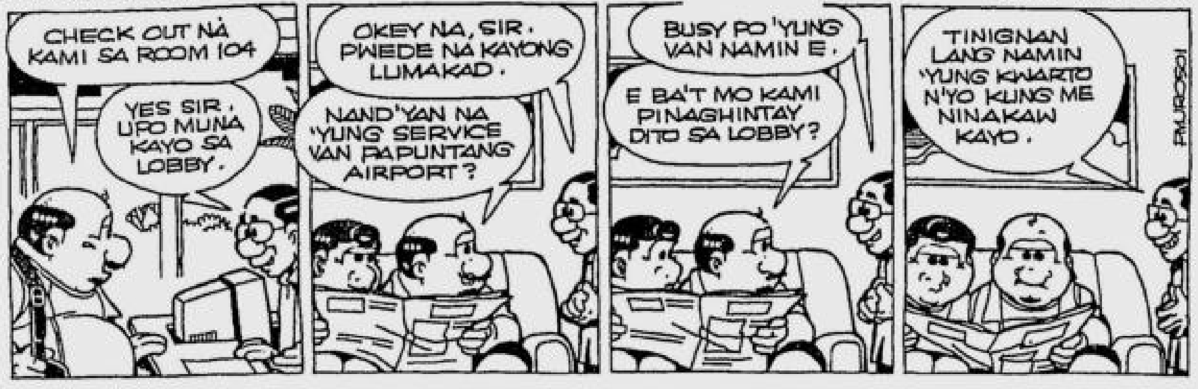
4/17/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

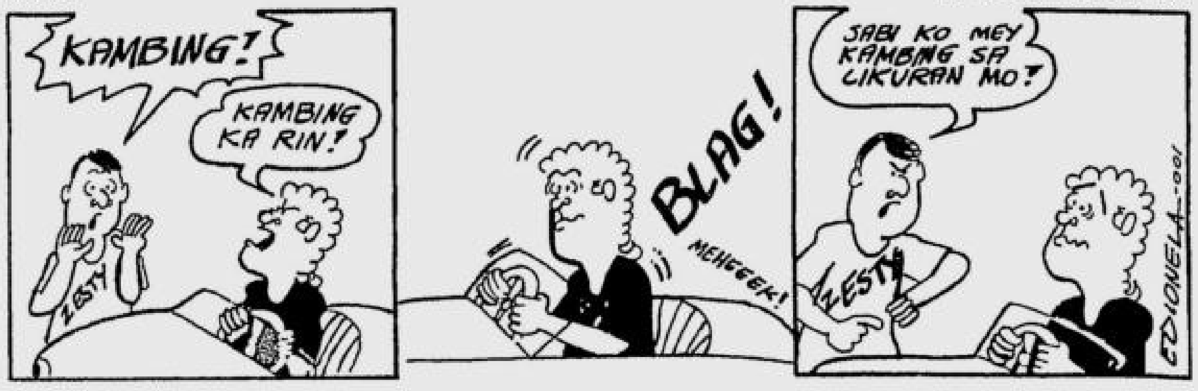
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


'DI PA AKO PWEDENG UMALIS DITO SA HOSPITAL
BAKIT?
MAGPAPA-BLOOD COUNT PA AKO, E!
SANDALI LANG YUN, AH...
COMELEC DAW ANG BIBILANG, E!

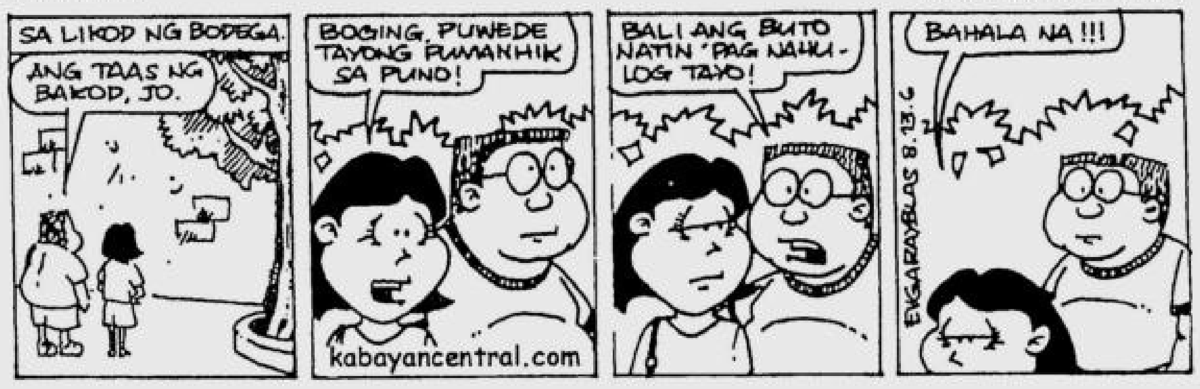
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


CHECK OUT NA KAMI SA ROOM 104
YES SIR. UPO MUNA KAYO SA LOBBY.
OKEY NA, SIR. PWEDE NA KAYONG LUMAKAD.
NAND'YAN NA 'YUNG SERVICE VAN PAPUNTANG AIRPORT?
BUSY PO 'YUNG VAN NAMIN E.
E BA'T MO KAMI PINAGHINTAY DITO SA LOBBY?
TINIGNAN LANG NAMIN 'YUNG KWARTO N'YO KUNG ME NINAKAW KAYO.
PMJR2001

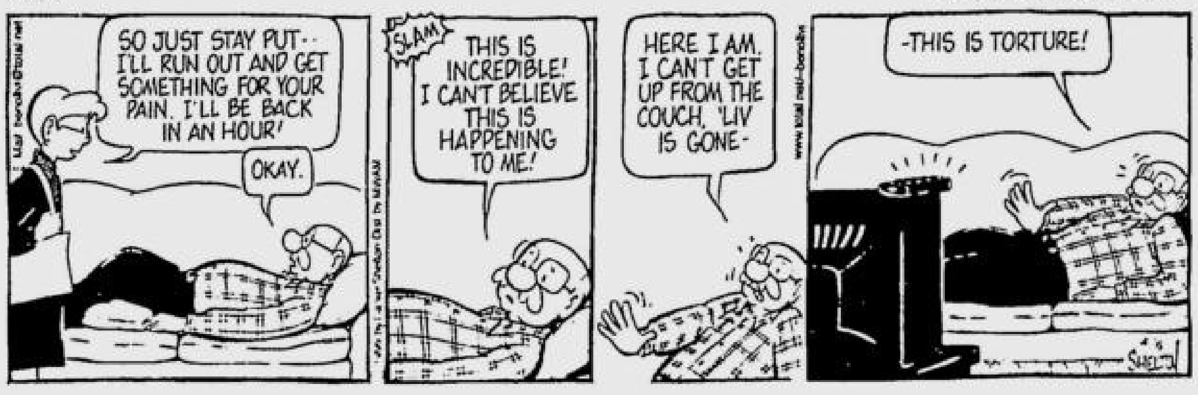
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


KAMBING!
KAMBING KA RIN!
BLAG!
MEHEEEK!
SABI KO MEY KAMBING SA LIKURAN MO!
ZESTY
EDIONELA-001

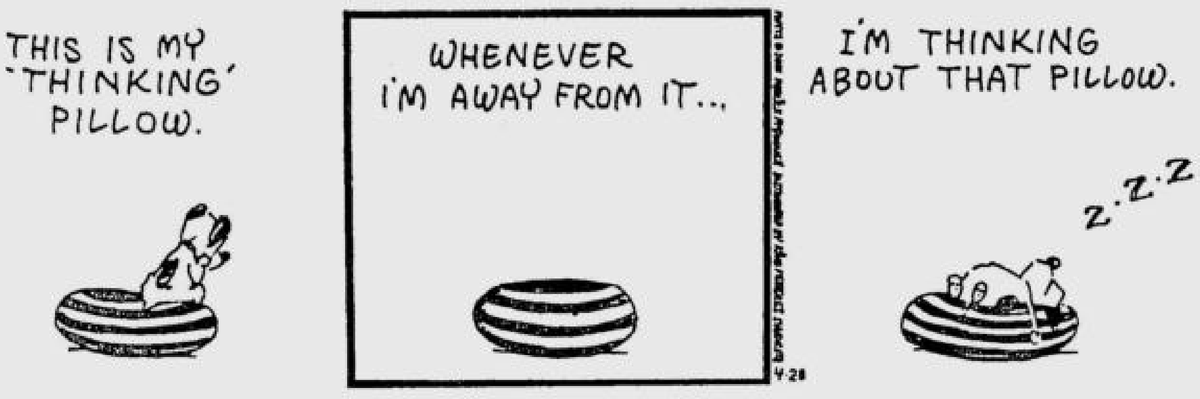
B1 GANG
BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA LIKOD NG BODEGA.
ANG TAAS NG BAKOD, JO.
BOGING, PUWEDE TAYONG PUMANHIK SA PUNO!
kabayancentral.com
BALI ANG BUTO NATIN 'PAG NAHULOG TAYO!
BAHALA NA!!!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.13.6

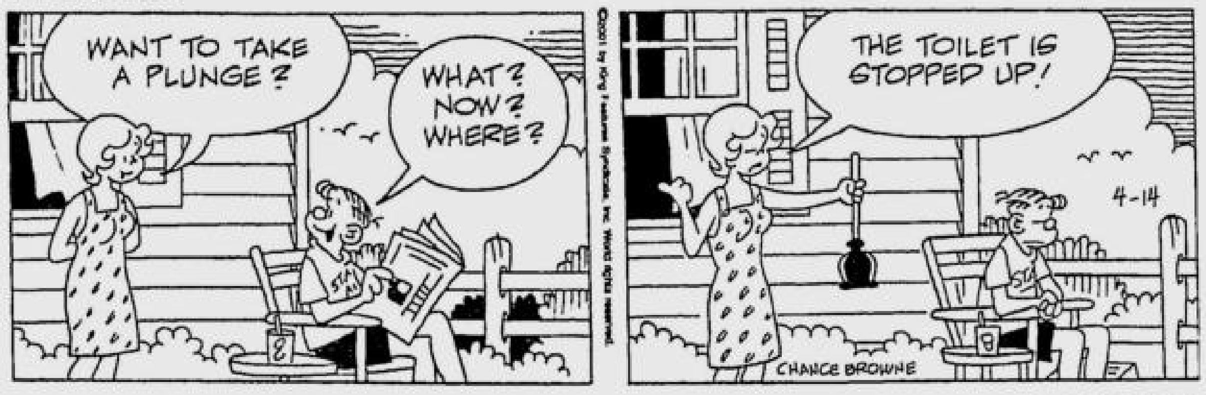
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO JUST STAY PUT-- I'LL RUN OUT AND GET SOMETHING FOR YOUR PAIN. I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR!
OKAY.
SLAM
THIS IS INCREDIBLE! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME!
HERE I AM. I CAN'T GET UP FROM THE COUCH. 'LIV IS GONE-
-THIS IS TORTURE!
SHELTON

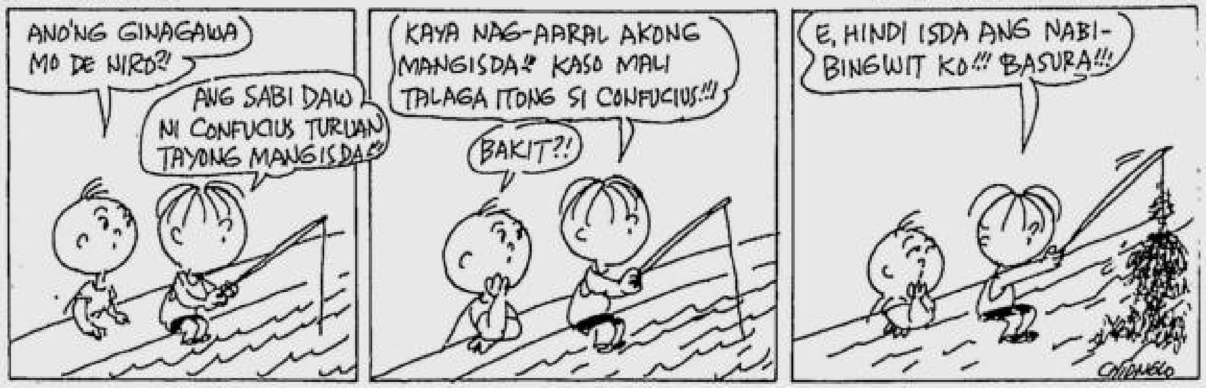
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THIS IS MY 'THINKING' PILLOW.
WHENEVER I'M AWAY FROM IT...
I'M THINKING ABOUT THAT PILLOW.
Z.Z.Z
4-28

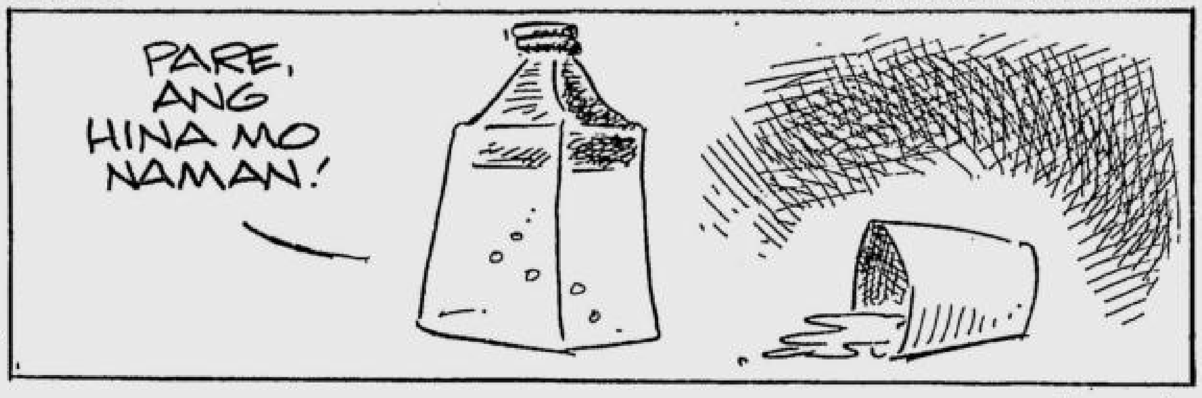
HI AND LOIS
BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WANT TO TAKE A PLUNGE?
WHAT? NOW? WHERE?
THE TOILET IS STOPPED UP!
4-14
CHANCE BROWNE

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANO'NG GINAGAWA MO DE NIRO?!
ANG SABI DAW NI CONFUCIUS TURUAN TAYONG MANGISDA!!
KAYA NAG-AARAL AKONG MANGISDA!! KASO MALI TALAGA ITONG SI CONFUCIUS!!!
BAKIT?!
E, HINDI ISDA ANG NABIBINGWIT KO!!! BASURA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PARE, ANG HINA MO NAMAN!

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Diether Ocampo grows up

By Mary Ann A. Bautista
and Ricky T. Gallardo

DIETHER Ocampo grew up without a father and was brought up by his conservative grandmother and aunts. He wished his father did not die early because he needed a man's point of view during his formative years.

"Maybe that's why I developed a serious inferiority complex when I was growing up. I was confused, I had an identity crisis because I didn't know what to do with my life," Diether shares.

His family used to own a drugstore and operate a medical clinic, so it seemed logical that he take up physical Therapy in De La Salle-Cavite—but he wanted to take Fine Arts instead. He quit school several times.

"I bummed around for almost a year until *nagsawa ako*. I begged my Lola for one last chance but she wanted to teach me a lesson," Diether sighs.

He became a working student and joined the service crew of a leading fast-food chain. But juggling school and his job was too demanding and exhausting, so he quit school again.

Then he became a bar attendant in a bar in Quezon City that was a haven for directors and talent managers. He found the direction he desperately needed in show business. He has become more responsible and mature because he loves being an actor.

Aside from his role as Paulo in the afternoon soap, "Recuerdo de Amor," Diether considers his most memorable role as a young man granting sexual favors to get a break as an actor in an episode in "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

"That was the first time I worked for *Direk* Rory Quintos. I told her that I wanted to prove that I'm not a ham actor, and she helped me," recalls Diether.

Feeling good with Dy Vest

The air crackles with electricity, Suburbia buzzes with excitement and anticipation. A hush falls on the yuppie crowd as the Dy Vest band breaks into the melancholy "Nobody Wants to be Lonely" during a recent Crossover Live bar tour.

Radha, Jed and Alija Pares sound good together as they dished out covers like "It Might Be You," "Heart to Heart," Cruising" and "Make It Happen."

They also have great stage presence. We we're impressed that they manage to keep their cool when Lani Misalucha surprises them by jamming with them. Radha and Alija don't break into shrill falsettos as Lani hits the high notes in "Hey" and "As."

Dy Vest does three sets that last way past midnight, but the crowd doesn't want them to leave the stage and asks for an encore—twice! That kind of reaction is even better than a standing ovation!

OCAMPO. Inferiority complex.

DY VEST. Great stage presence.

'Quiet American' portrays a different Vietnam experience

By Tini Tran

HANOI, Vietnam—The Vietnam that piqued Phillip Noyce's interest was not the bloody, war-ravaged nation of Hollywood films.

Instead, the Australian director became intrigued with novelist Graham Greene's version—the elegant white-suited era of 1950s French colonialism depicted in "The Quiet American," the book that eerily foreshadowed American involvement in the Vietnam War a decade later.

Love triangle

He recently arrived in Vietnam to film an adaptation of the novel, which revolves around a tumultuous love triangle involving cynical British journalist Thomas Fowler (Michael Caine), naïve American aid worker Alden Pyle (Brendan Fraser) and Fowler's beautiful young Vietnamese mistress, Phuong (newcomer Do Hai Yen).

What begins as a love story turns into a broader cautionary tale on the folly of foreign intervention, Noyce said.

"This is a book that asks and answers the big question, 'Why? Why did the Americans get involved in Vietnam?'" he said during a break in filming in Hanoi. "There have been so many films made about fighting the Vietnam War, but very few films that tried to explain why it happened."

Ever since he stumbled across a copy of "The Quiet American" during a trip to Vietnam in 1995, Noyce—whose credits include "Dead Calm," "Patriot Games," "Sliver," "Clear and Present Danger" and "The Bone Collector"—has been doggedly pursuing a way to turn the book into film, a challenge made difficult by the political material and his own reputation as a director of thrillers and action films.

Sydney Pollack, famed for directing "Tootsie" and "Out of Africa," owned the rights to the book and considered directing a film version but says he changed his mind after meeting Noyce

Obsession

"What convinced me was his obsession with the material. At first blush, he wouldn't seem the first choice. But he spoke so passionately about it and kept after it," said Pollack, the film's executive producer.

Noyce also became enchanted with the country itself, convincing the movie's backers of the need to film in Vietnam.

AUSTRALIAN director Philip Noyce, center, talks with actor Michael Caine, left, during filming of "The Quiet American."

"I was impressed by the vividness and beauty of Vietnam, which was at odds with the agony that took place here," he said.

At $30 million, it's the largest film project and the first major Hollywood production undertaken in Vietnam.

With that pioneering step came a host of difficulties operating in a country unused to movie crews, said line producer Antonia Barnard.

"It's been quite tricky. We're trying to do something that hasn't been done before on this scale. It can be very frustrating," she said.

The movie crew was required to get nine levels of approvals for every scene, from having government censors pore over the script to getting OKs on every location, she said.

After much haggling, a crucial explosion scene involving 225-kilogram (500-pound) bombs was approved, but government denials on other locations, including a military airport, shortened the shooting period.

Still, Barnard said, "It's such a well-known book, and a very specific era. We didn't really consider any other place."

Filmmakers set about meticulously transforming four different locations around the country into various incarnations of 1950s-era Vietnam.

For a week, downtown Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, was transformed, complete with vintage Citroens, rickshaws, bicycles and extras in period dress.

Vietnamese woman

Faithfully rendering Greene's vision also meant casting a Vietnamese woman as Phuong. In an earlier film version, shot in the 1950s, an Italian actress played the part

"Despite the fact that Do Hai Yen spoke very little English, in the end, she was the only one," Noyce said. "She has that certain grace, charm and gravity we were looking for."

A dancer, the 18-year-old from Vietnam's northern Bac Ninh province was discovered when she was accompanying her actor boyfriend to an audition—and she caught the eye of casting directors.

"Everything about me and acting has been luck," said Yen, adding that her star turn "has made my parents very happy, very proud."

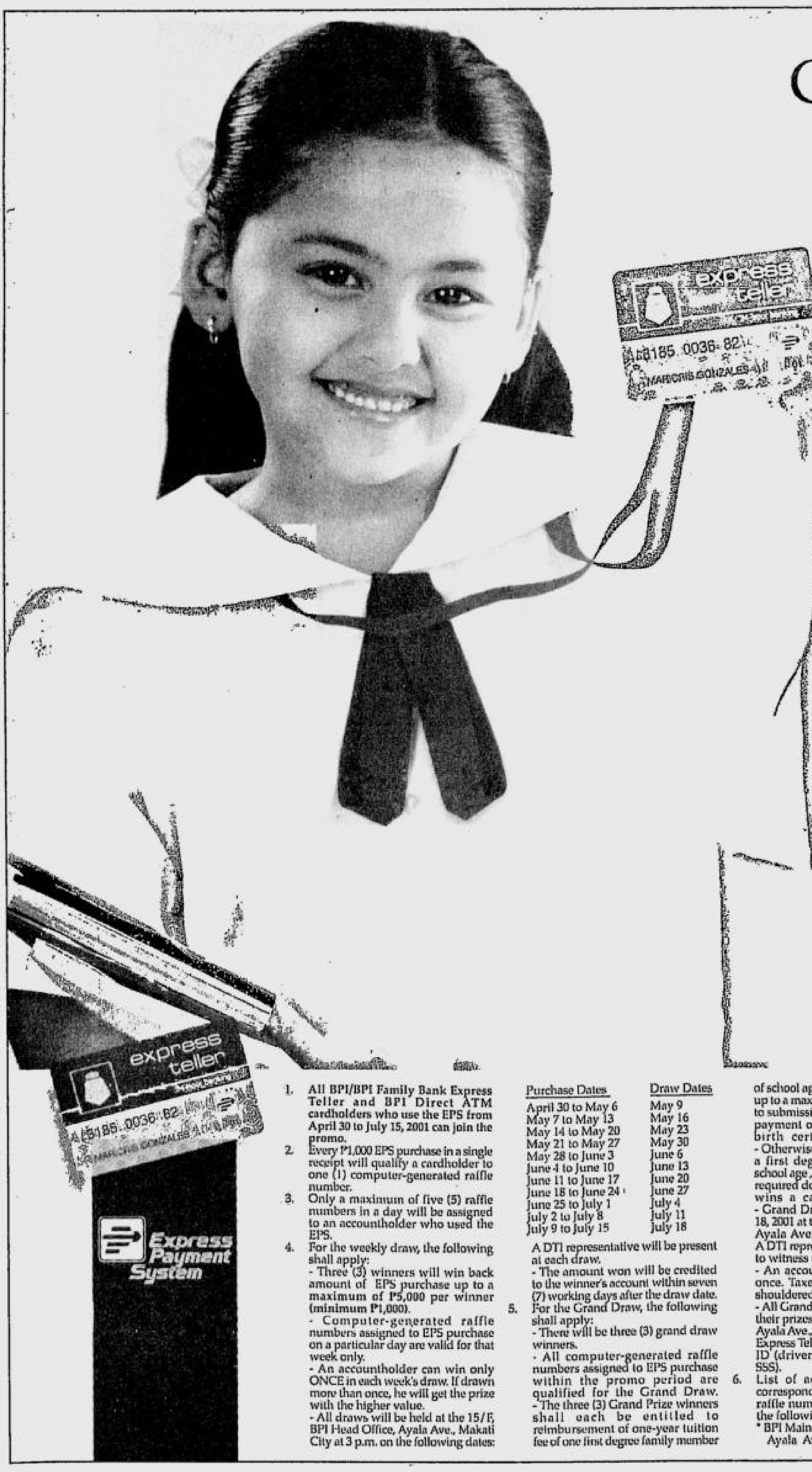
The filmmakers' attempts to follow Greene more faithfully is a departure from the first film version. In keeping with the politics of the '50s, the earlier movie departed from the book's plot by portraying Pyle, played by Audie Murphy, as an anti-Communist hero.

It's clear the current script's more anti-American bent, lauded by Vietnamese officials on the grounds that it "condemns the maneuvers of hostile forces and foreign aggressors against the Vietnamese people," provided for a more positive reception in Vietnam.

America's aspirations

Noyce characterizes the plot more diplomatically: "I don't think it's anti-American but it does hold up a mirror to America's aspirations at the time."

Executive producer Bill Horberg puts it another way: "Making this film today 25 years after the war's end, after a genre of movies that examined the soldier's experience, has finally become possible. Now we're in a different time and place." *AP*



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In Back-to-School TUITION'S FREE!

Go back-to-school shopping with your Express Teller's EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001, and you may get your child's one-year tuition fee fully-paid up to ₱100,000!

Plus! You may win back your shopping money up to ₱5,000!

1. All BPI/BPI Family Bank Express Teller and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from April 30 to July 15, 2001 can join the promo.
2. Every ₱1,000 EPS purchase in a single receipt will qualify a cardholder to one (1) computer-generated raffle number.
3. Only a maximum of five (5) raffle numbers in a day will be assigned to an accountholder who used the EPS.
4. For the weekly draw, the following shall apply:
   - Three (3) winners will win back amount of EPS purchase up to a maximum of ₱5,000 per winner (minimum ₱1,000).
   - Computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase on a particular day are valid for that week only.
   - An accountholder can win only ONCE in each week's draw. If drawn more than once, he will get the prize with the higher value.
   - All draws will be held at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates	Draw Dates
April 30 to May 6	May 9
May 7 to May 13	May 16
May 14 to May 20	May 23
May 21 to May 27	May 30
May 28 to June 3	June 6
June 4 to June 10	June 13
June 11 to June 17	June 20
June 18 to June 24	June 27
June 25 to July 1	July 4
July 2 to July 8	July 11
July 9 to July 15	July 18

A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
   - The amount won will be credited to the winner's account within seven (7) working days after the draw date.
5. For the Grand Draw, the following shall apply:
   - There will be three (3) grand draw winners.
   - All computer-generated raffle numbers assigned to EPS purchase within the promo period are qualified for the Grand Draw.
   - The three (3) Grand Prize winners shall each be entitled to reimbursement of one-year tuition fee of one first degree family member of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of ₱100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assesment and birth certificate of the child.
   - Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of ₱50,000.
   - Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at the 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present to witness the draw.
   - An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
   - All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (drivers license, Company ID, SSS).
6. List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations;
   - * BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City
   - * BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
   - * BPI Baguio-Burnham Branch, Baguio City
   - * BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.
8. Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
9. All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed/terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
10. All employees of BPI Unibank, its PR and advertising agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified.
11. In case of dispute, the decision of BPI Unibank, with the concurrence of DTI, shall be deemed final.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1228 Series of 2001

'Evolution' is an effects-packed sci-fi comedy film

FROM the filmmakers of "End of Days," "Casper" and "Ghostbusters" comes Columbia Pictures' smash blockbuster "Evolution," an effects-packed sci-fi comedy starring David Duchovny ("The X-Files") Julianne Moore ("Hannibal"), Orlando Jones ("The Replacements") and Seann William Scott ("American Pie").

Directed by Ivan Reitman ("Ghostbusters," "Dave"), "Evolution" follows the chaos that ensues when a meteor hits the Earth carrying alien life forms that give new meaning to the term "survival of the fittest."

Original script

"I had always wanted to do a contemporary science fiction movie—but in my own language, which is comedy," says Ivan Reitman. "When my partner, Tom Pollock, gave me Don Jakoby's original script called 'Evolution.' I thought it was a very clever, new alien threat to the world."

There was one aspect of Jakoby's "Evolution" screenplay that didn't quite fit in with the director's vision: in its first incarnation, it was a *dramatic* science fiction thriller.

That didn't deter Reitman, who saw its comedic potential even within its end-of-the-world scenario. Reitman began working with screenwriters Don Jakoby, David Diamond and David Weissman to develop the action thriller into an action comedy.

The humor notwithstanding, the real scientific theories upon which Jakoby had based his original premise remained largely intact. In fact, the central hypothesis of the story is one held by an admitted minority of scientists, but one that the filmmakers found fascinating.

Executive producer Tom Pollock offers, "Some scientists venture that life travels from one planetary system to another by way of meteors that crash into a previously lifeless planet. It's called panspermia—a great word—and there's no reason to assume that life didn't start that way on this planet.

Creation

"The majority view is still that life somehow evolved from the bubbling primordial ooze, and then there's divine creation . . .but I kind of like the panspermia idea. It resonates with me."

DUCHOVNY (left) and his co-stars watch as a meteor carrying alien life forms threatens to hit the Earth.

"Comedy is the crux of the film," Reitman notes. "But it's just as important in a movie like this to give the weight to the science fiction aspects. The science is somewhat twisted and exaggerated because it is fiction *and* a comedy, but it's based in truth.

"It has to make some sense for the audience to get caught up in the ride. I'm always trying to walk that narrow line between the fantastic and the absurd, between being broad and being realistic."

The task of striking that balance was carried over to the cast, led by David Duchovny who affirms, "The comedy couldn't undercut the believability of the characters as scientists. That was one of the challenges of the part that made me want to do it: how do I make him credible and incredibly goofy at the same time?"

Duchovny stars as Dr. Ira Kane, who is the first to discover the meteor's alien stowaways and the first to understand the significance of their rapid development.

"He's a former government scientist who has fallen into disgrace and wound up a teacher at a community college in Glen Canyon, Arizona. Ironically, it's there that he makes the major scientific discovery that could change his life," Duchovny remarks.

Discovery

Duchovny might have preferred to save the world on his own, but it is impossible to keep a discovery of this magnitude under wraps, and it isn't long before the government swoops in to take over. Leading the way is Allison, a beautiful but all-business epidemiologist from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), played by two-time Oscar nominee Julianne Moore.

Allison has little respect for Ira when she first learns of his checkered scientific past, but she soon figures out that they won 't have a very long future if they don't join forces.

"Allison is kind of a braniac, but she is also a klutz," Moore smiles. "She trips over herself all the time, which I found endearing. She's kind of a misfit, so it makes sense that she ends up siding with the other misfits in the group."

Reitman, in turn, calls Moore "one of the greatest actresses of her generation," adding, 'The terrific thing about Julianne is that she's fearless. She's willing to try anything, which added so much to her role, especially the physical comedy."

Some of the characters in "Evolution" weren't cast; they were created. A team of visual effects wizards, led by visual effects supervisor Phil Tippett, worked with Ivan Reitman to design an ever-evolving assortment of alien creatures, which were then digitally rendered in the computer.

'SPOT'

Child actor Angus T. Jones, the next Haley Joel Osment?

FROM Haley Joel Osment ("The Sixth Sense") to Jonathan Lipnicki ("Jerry Maguire," "Stuart Little") to Jamie Bell ("Billy Elliott"), child actors have never been given greater importance in films than today.

These child prodigies are clearly a cut above the rest since attaining stardom at a tender age demands adult-like dedication, not to mention sheer talent.

Joining the ranks of these gifted children is six-year-old Angus T. Jones, who lands his first major film role in Warner Bros.' hit comedy, "Spot."

Natural

"Angus is a real natural," says director John Whitesell, "and he always knew his lines, thanks in part to the dedicated coaching of his mom, Carey. He came to every scene with spectacular enthusiasm. He's highly disciplined and well mannered, especially for a six-year-old. I was also very impressed with how well he took direction."

Young Jones was particularly gleeful about playing with Bob, the dog and being "on the run" with co-star David Arquette, whom he clearly idolizes and with whom he quickly developed a big brother/little brother relationship. "My best friend on this movie is David Arquette," Jones proclaims.

As for his canine companion, Jones says, "I also really like Bob, except that he slobbers on me sometimes."

Arquette was equally impressed with his diminutive co-star. "Little Angus T. Jones is such a professional," he says.

"He's a witty, smart little actor and he's got a great sense of humor. And Bob is a prodigy—he's got to be the smartest dog I've ever seen. I'm amazed by both of them. The producers obviously did their research in hiring these two and it really paid off."

Producer Robert Simonds is quick to credit Whitesell's directorial skills with the young star. "John has great comic instinct and an amazing ability to get quality performances out of people and that included our young star Angus," says Simonds.

Chemistry

"Also, David and the kid had great chemistry together, which really added to the film."

Their characters' on-screen relationship, in that they treat each other like friends, also reflects the off-screen relationship between Arquette and Jones.

"The two of them were just big kids together," explains Whitesell "and that really worked for the story. I don't think Gordon had any idea what being a father is all about, so part of what he has learned in the story was how to do that, and that is why I never wanted David to take on that parental role in the beginning. I wanted it to evolve as they were trying to find their way along together as buddies first."

Arquette describes a touching and amusing incident that demonstrates what a pro the young actor was during production. "One time I was running while carrying Angus and I accidentally dropped him," recalls Arquette.

Teary-eyed

"He scraped his leg and got a little sad and teary-eyed, and then he said to the director, with a little catch in his voice, 'This would be a good day to shoot one of those crying scenes.'"

Angus T. Jones has previously appeared in the independent features "Simpatico" (opposite Sharon Stone) and "Tuna." A native of Austin, Texas, Jones moved to California as an infant with his parents, and began appearing in commercials as a toddler.

A natural before the camera, he showed poise and real comedic talent from the start. He came to the attention of producer Bob Simonds when he auditioned for "Big Daddy" at age five, and was cast in "Spot" a year later.

JONES. Spectacular enthusiasm.

Julia Stiles goes beyond cute and airy teen portrayals

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

JULIA Stiles is only 20 years old, but she's already regarded as one of the best young actresses in Hollywood, topbilling not just your usual, silly teen movies, but updated versions of Shakespearean plays, no less!

They include "10 Things I Hate About You" (a high school version of "The Taming of the Shrew"), "Hamlet" (where she plays Ophelia to Ethan Hawke's moody prince) and "O" (for "Othello," where she's cast as Desdemona).

Heavy line-up

Other young actresses would balk at such a heavy line-up of roles, but for Stiles, they're just par for the course. She's always been a take-charge, can-do kind of person, for whom nothing is impossible (the truly hard stuff just takes more work).

After all, she was born and raised in Manhattan, where only the tough and savvy survive. But little Julia had more than mere survival in mind, she wanted to own the town!

Early on, she knew she could do that by becoming an actress. Characteristically, instead for waiting for a talent scout to knock on her door with a juicy contract in hand, she hurried the process up by writing a letter to the famous Café La Mama theater in Greenwich Village, asking for an audition. She was all of 11 years old.

Confident move

Well, young Julia's confident move worked. Within months, she was performing in the theater's avant-garde productions. She did well in those plays, so she began to get small parts in films.

She was cast as Harrison Ford's daughter in "The Devil's Own" and even played the lead in the small independent production, "Wicked."

Along the way, though, Stiles got a lot of rejections that made her parents urge her to stop pursuing an acting career, to spare her the pain of *almost* getting a role she really wanted. The adolescent actress appreciated their concern, but she kept at it.

Big break

Her big break came on TV, when she was cast in a starring role in the NBC miniseries, "The '60s." Later, she got to play the female lead in "10 Things I Hate About You," and she was on her way.

Her success in that career-making movie led to her being cast opposite Freddie Prinze, Jr. in "Down on You." Both films clicked with the young crowd, so Stiles suddenly found herself the toast of teenyboppers.

That was fun and profitable, but not quite what she had in mind in terms of screen image, so Stiles made sure that her performances wouldn't just be cute and airy.

Conflicts

She dug deep into the teen characters she played, looking for needs and conflicts that gave her roles greater weight and bite. Instead of turning off her teen fans, her well-crafted performances made them love her all the more because they articulated and dramatized the conflicts that many teenagers had to contend with in their own lives.

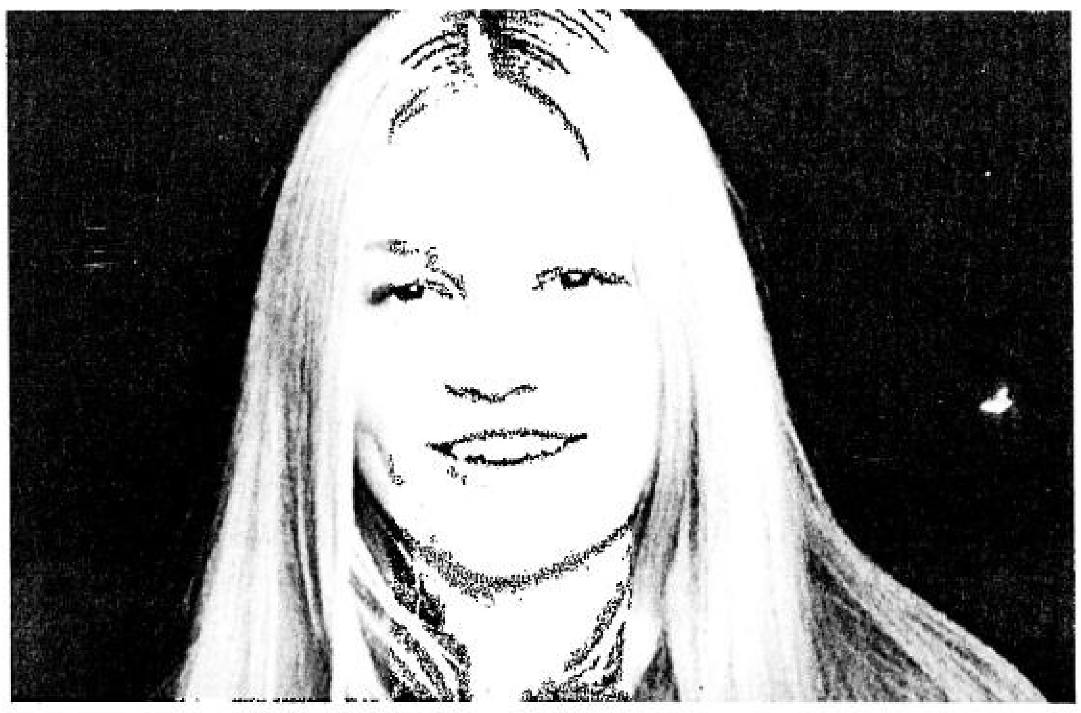
Earlier this year, Stiles opted for a slightly older projection in the interracial love story, "Save the Last Dance," serving notice that, as she moved into her 20s, her roles would correspondingly shift from teen to young-adult.

Ensemble film

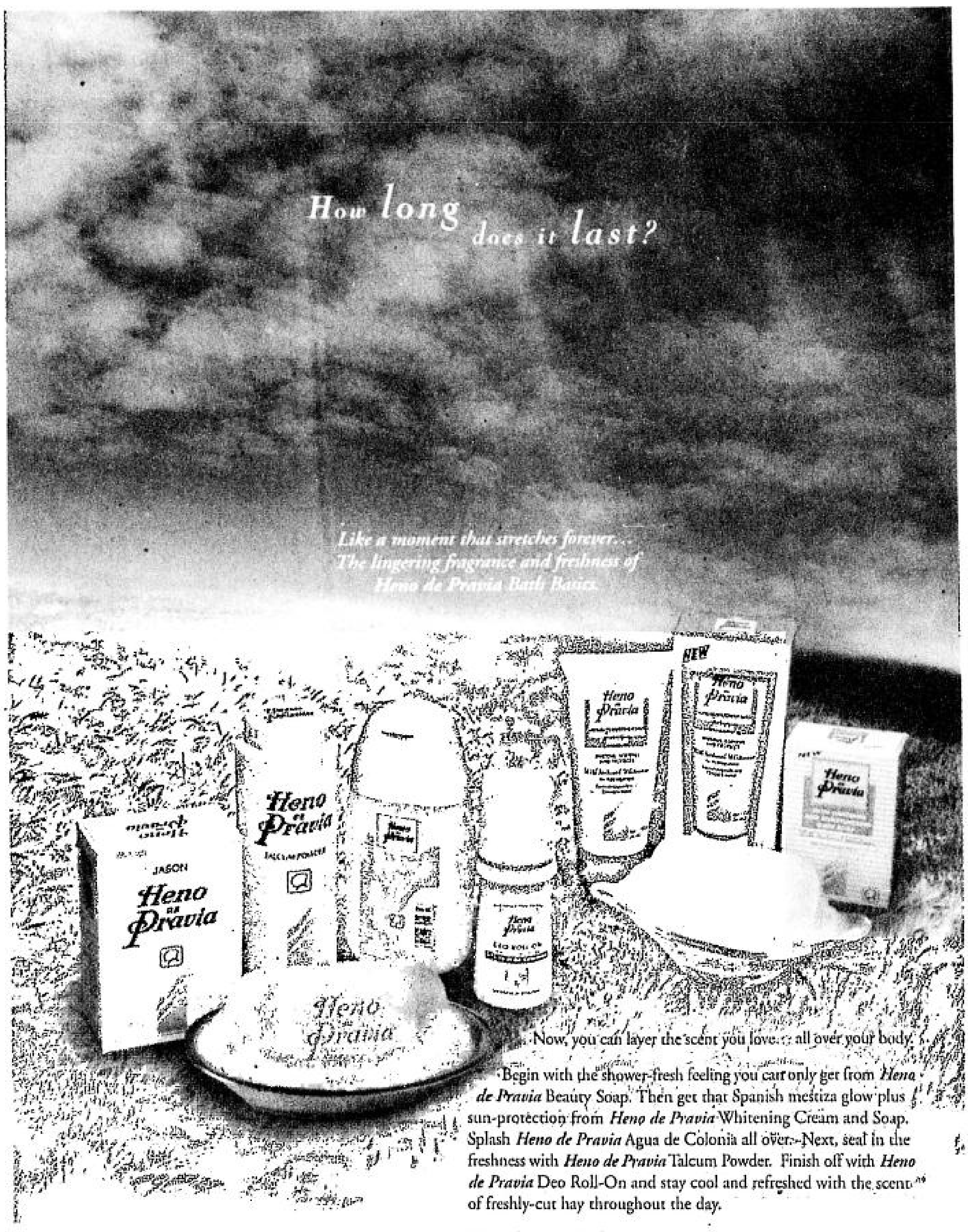
That goes double for the other movies she's starring in this year: David Mamet's ensemble film, "State and Main," "The Business of Strangers" with Stockard Channing, and her new Shakespeare-based movies.

How did a young actress like Julia "dare" to play famously challenging characters like Ophelia and Desdemona? By not getting daunted by them, Stiles responds. By simply trying to understand them as people, and refusing to lift the heavy thespic baggage that's weighed them down through the centuries.

Besides, those characters were quite young, too, so portraying them with truth and conviction would be no sweat at all for a young and perceptive actress like Julia Stiles, young Hollywood's prime exponent of "Shakespeare—and stuff!"



STILES. Young Hollywood's prime exponent of "Shakespeare--and stuff!"



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Ban on 'Gone With The Wind' parody overturned

By Karen Jacobs

THE FILM version of 'GWTW' starred Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh.

ATLANTA—A US appeals court has overturned a publication ban on a black writer's apparent parody of the epic novel of the Old South "Gone With The Wind," written from the point of view of black slaves instead of Southern aristocrats.

A three-judge panel of the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta had been asked by the publisher of Alice Randall's "The Wind Done Gone" to reverse a lower court ruling in April that halted publication of Randall's book due to alleged copyright infringement of Margaret Mitchell's 1936 novel.

Arguments

The appeals court, ruling from the bench soon after arguments by attorneys for Mitchell's estate and Randall's publisher, vacated a US District Court's preliminary injunction against the book.

"It is manifest that the entry of a preliminary injunction in this copyright case was an abuse of discretion in that it represents an unlawful prior restraint in violation of the First Amendment (of the US Constitution)," the appeals court said in its ruling.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and the press among its protections.

Lawyers for the Mitchell estate, who had argued that Randall's book was an unauthorized sequel that pirated the content of Mitchell's classic, said they would request that the entire 11th Circuit Court rehear the case.

"This is the first round," said Martin Garbus, a lawyer for the Mitchell estate. "There is a high possibility that this case may wind up in the Supreme Court."

Publication

Randall's publisher, Houghton Mifflin Co., which argued that Randall's book was parody and thus protected by the First Amendment, said it hoped to have the book in stores in two to three weeks. Publication was originally scheduled for early June.

"I put a lot of heart and soul in this book. It's important now for everyone to get a chance to read it," Randall said shortly after the ruling.

Georgia plantation

Portraying life in the Old South from the viewpoint of a mixed-race daughter of a Georgia plantation owner who appears to be a half-sister of "Gone With the Wind" heroine Scarlett O'Hara, Randall's book rebutted the disparaging caricatures of blacks in Mitchell's original.

Blacks have for years criticized Mitchell for providing a flawed version of history that mythologized slave owners and downplayed the brutality faced by blacks during the Civil War and Reconstruction eras.

Joseph Beck, Houghton Mifflin's attorney, told the appeals court that Randall was sued partly because her parody responded to racist messages in "Gone With the Wind."

"This is a racist book," Beck said of "Gone With the Wind." Rather than being a sequel to an existing book, he argued "The Wind Done Gone" was a new work that unveiled new information.

"'The Wind Done Gone' tells us, for the first time, how African-Americans read 'Gone With the Wind,'" Beck said.

Racial implications

Garbus said the racial implications and media coverage of the case influenced the judges. A host of media companies, including the publishers of Time magazine, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal, filed a brief urging the publication ban be lifted because it placed property rights above free-speech protections.

Mitchell's book, which topped bestseller lists for two years after it was first published, is surpassed in sales by only a handful of books, including the Bible. It inspired the 1939 film of the same name, one of the most popular movies ever made.

Reuters

'Driven' is about auto racers at their best and

SYLVESTER Stallon and Kip Pardue star in Warner Bros. Pictures' "Driven." AP

By Malcolm Ritter

NEW YORK—"Driven" celebrates the macho brotherhood of auto racing, where men compete nobly at more than 200 mph and women look sexy. Don't expect an intriguing plot or social message. But the racing footage will blow you away.

The camera thrusts moviegoers into the middle of the action, whether in the cockpit or anywhere close by. Just like the driver, you may see other cars jockey for position with you, or you may be blinded by rain.

Slow motion

Spectacular crashes unfold in slow motion, with cars hurtling through the air. And the action isn't confined to the track: A scene where two race cars whizz through traffic on the streets of Chicago, hitting 195 mph on a cop's radar gun, is thrilling.

The movie tells the story of promising rookie Jimmy Bly, played by Kip Pardue ("Remember The Titans"), whose success is undermined because he can't handle the pressure and hype.

The impatient owner of his racing team (Burt Reynolds) brings in washed-up pro Joe Tanto (Sylvester Stallone) to help Jimmy out. Joe not only does that, with some plain talk about being true to oneself, but also shows he's still got the touch behind the wheel.

Rival

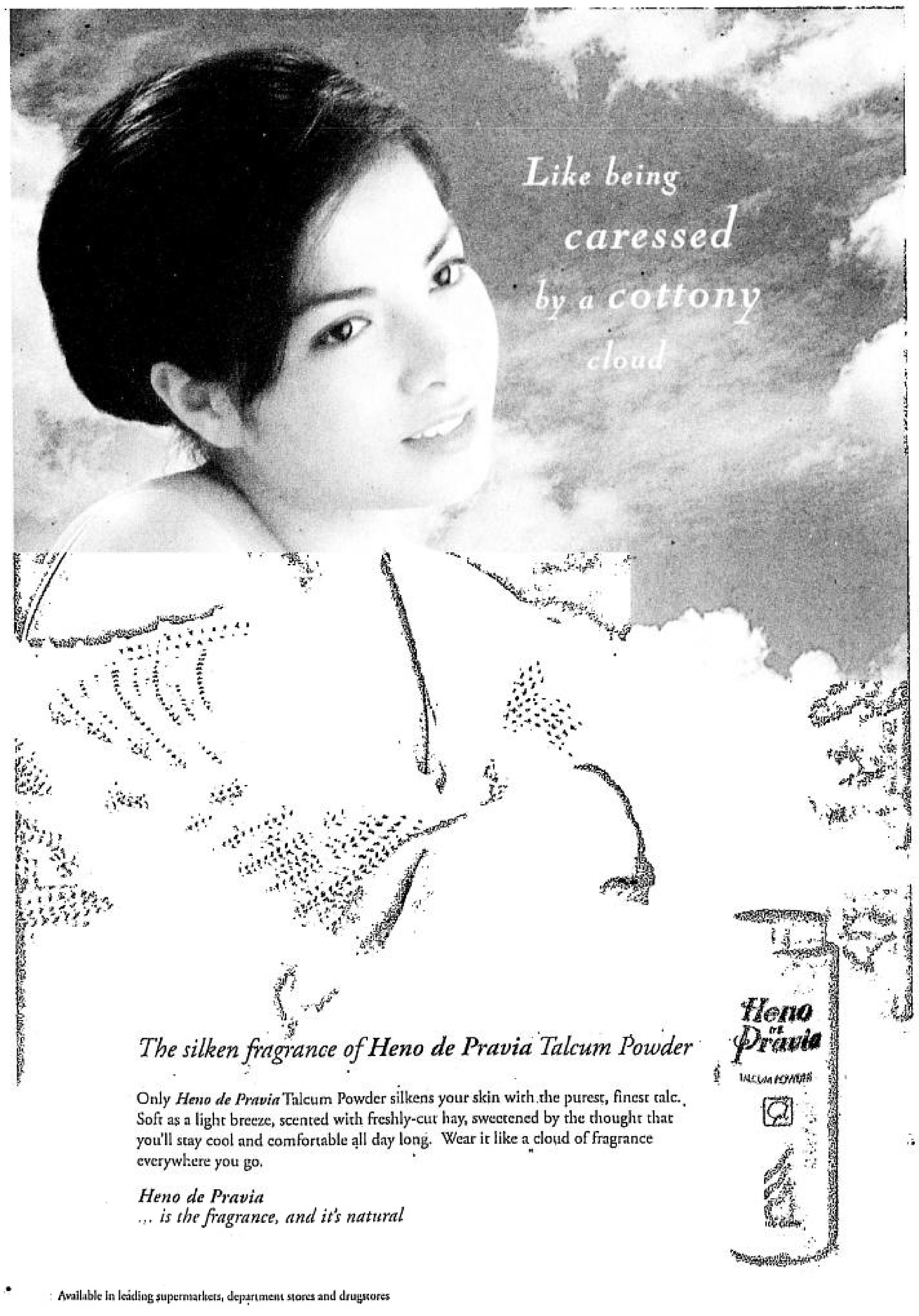
There are some women in this story, like Tanto's vindictive ex-wife, and Sophia (Estella Warren), whose affections shuttle between Jimmy's main racing rival, played by Til Schweiger ("Judas Kiss"), and Jimmy himself. But make no mistake: This movie is about auto racers at their best and worst.

And if you're in the mood for that, you can sit back and enjoy it.

"Driven," distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, was produced by Stallone, Elie Samaha and Renny Harlin, and directed by Harlin.

Stallone also wrote the screenplay. Mauro Fiore was director of photography. It runs 109 minutes.

AP



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Like it or not, DivX emerges as format of choice for online movies

By Ron Harris

SAN FRANCISCO—For the movie industry, a small piece of software called DivX holds the same promise and peril that the MP3 audio format presented to the record labels.

Potential

DivX has already shown the potential to become a de facto Internet standard—and the basis for a California startup that hopes to make it the compressed digital video format of choice.

Thousands of film buffs have discovered that DivX can be a real alternative to paying for movies, just as Napster and MP3 allow music fans to trade millions of songs for free.

"Sometimes I rent a DVD at a local rental store, I 'rip' it and send it back," said Bruce Heller of Paris. "I know it's illegal, but I think it's better to rent a movie each week than buying a DVD or two each year."

DivX compresses full-length movies into sizes small enough to be sent on the Internet and stored on a single compact disk. Using DeCSS software to crack the Content Scrambling System on DVDs, Heller copies movies using DivX onto his own CDs and loans them to friends.

"We are only at the beginning of the movie piracy, and it's growing fast," Heller said. "Who would not be interested in it?"

Challenge

The challenge for Hollywood and technology companies is to create a popular, yet secure standard for online video delivery before the movie industry suffers the same losses that record labels have seen.

Publicly, Hollywood is enthusiastic about a future in which movies can be delivered directly to personal computers over the Internet.

DivX, like other video compression technologies, could provide the answer if coupled with strong security measures, said Jack Valenti, head of the Motion Picture Association of America.

"I think the technology is wonderful," Valenti said. "I don't see it as a tool of piracy. I see it as a convenience to consumers who want to bring down legitimate licensed films."

DivXNetworks, a small San Diego-based startup, hopes to make DivX the format of choice for Hollywood. It wants to negotiate revenue-sharing deals with companies looking to sell content online—but hasn't succeeded in cutting any deals with major studios.

Jordan Greenhall, the company's chief executive and co-founder, said DivXNetworks' only legitimate customers so far use DivX to deliver video of monster truck contests and Japanese animation shorts.

Power

The company faces formidable challenges from Microsoft Corp., which showed the power of the Windows Media format last month by delivering a half-hour film starring John Cleese to a Pittsburgh theater via the Net.

RealNetworks Inc. also offers a secure format for "streaming" video content online and can leverage MusicNet, its online music subscription venture with AOL Time Warner and Bertelsmann AG.

Without major backers, DivXNetworks has turned to the power of the Internet, posting the DivX source code online and encouraging programmers to retool and improve it.

DivXNetworks hopes DivX will become so popular that Hollywood will decide to make it the standard, in the same way that record labels have grudgingly accepted MP3s as the way to deliver music.

But even if DivX becomes as popular as MP3, it faces other challenges

Security measures

For one thing, although Greenhall says security measures can be incorporated into DivX, the code is already loose on the Internet, where unsecured versions may prove devilishly difficult to tame.

Also, Microsoft claims DivXNetworks uses technology stolen from Windows Media.

"It's our technology and they've essentially re-branded it," said Michael Aldridge of Microsoft's Digital Media division. "It's like taking a Volkswagen, taking the brand Volkswagen off the hood and putting DivX on it."

Greenhall denied that his company lifted Microsoft's code, saying the latest version of the software was programmed from scratch.

Movies in demand

The notion of piping movies on demand straight to desktops over high-speed Internet connections stalled last month when video rental chain giant Blockbuster Inc. canned a deal with Enron Broadband Services. Each company blamed the other for a lack of commitment.

Robin Diedrich, an entertainment industry analyst with Edward Jones, said eight to 10 years could pass before consumers have full catalogs of movies online, particularly because most consumers still connect to the Net through telephone wires.

Downloading a full-length DivX movie using phone wiring could take days, compared with a few hours using high-speed T1 lines or cable modems.

Diedrich also said studios would be leery of anything that could reduce revenues from theaters and video rentals.

Valenti said online versions will likely appear only after films are delivered to theaters, airlines, home video and pay-per-view.

He also said the studios he represents haven't endorsed any particular file format. They only urge that any movies delivered online be encoded with enough security measures to prevent unauthorized copying.

But hackers aren't waiting. Both the DivX codec—techie shorthand for a software program used to compress and decompress video and audio data—and DeCSS software are freely available on the Internet.

Fighting back

The Hollywood trade group is fighting back, cruising through newsgroups, Web sites and chat rooms for DivX movie traders.

Hemanshu Nigam, the MPAA's director of Internet enforcement, expects to send 20,000 cease-and-desist letters to people who illegally trade copyrighted movies this year. That's 10 times the number sent out in 2000.

And that's just the people actively trading movies. Any number of people could be building their own collections in secret, or trading DivX movies in less public ways.

Daniel Lukis of Chicago uses the software to digitally store home movies and some of his favorite "Seinfeld" episodes.

Keeping copies of sitcoms is legally permissible for personal home use, but if Lukis decided to share those files online he would run the risk of copyright infringement. He fears the pirates may hamper the development of DivX as a legitimate software tool.

"Like with all new forms of technology, someone will devise a way to exploit it," said Lukis, who moderates an online DivX discussion forum. "These people give a bad name to DivX, as Napster did to MP3, and the honest users of the formats are suffering because of that."

AP

Jaclyn Smith no longer a damsel in distress in TV movie

By Beth Harris

WEST HOLLYWOOD, California—Jaclyn Smith isn't the beautiful damsel in distress in her newest television movie.

Still gorgeous

Well, she's still gorgeous more than 20 years after chasing the bad guys in a bikini on "Charlie's Angels," but Smith departs from her usual role as victim in "Navigating the Heart," premiering Monday at 9 p.m. EST on Lifetime.

"I'm usually murdering somebody or being raped or having a disease of the week, so to go to work and laugh and fall in love and get angry for funny reasons at this person was really fun," Smith said in a soft Texas twang that belies her decades in Hollywood.

The romantic comedy pairs her with Tim Matheson in the story of a hard-charging Manhattan magazine writer who spars with a local fisherman when she visits British Columbia for a story on salmon fishing.

Smith gulped pills for seasickness during the hours spent filming in boats during the Vancouver shoot.

"When I'd come in at night, I was still rocking, and when that stopped I missed it," she said. "Sometimes I'd be on one boat and the camera would be on the other boat and I really felt I was in my own world."

Less comforting were the scenes of Matheson gutting salmon, a slippery skill Smith also had to master.

And at one point, her character leans overboard to vomit, a performance perhaps not so hard for her to master.

"There were real fish, real smells, real sounds," she said, smiling. "Those fish are heavy, they're big. It was hard."

Smith plays Edith Iglauer, whose autobiography "Fishing With John" is the movie's basis. Sent to Canada to write a fluff piece on the high price of fish, Edith discovers that the fishermen's threatened way of life is the real story.

Combative

Despite their combativeness, Edith and John (Matheson) fall in love, forcing Edith to choose between her high-profile career or sharing a quiet life in the outdoors.

"Life is all the sweeter to share it with someone, and that's what this is," she said, relaxing in a bamboo chair in the Zen garden of an exotic tea emporium in West Hollywood.

Smith, an admitted sucker for love stories, faces a similar dilemma in her own life.

She's been married for two years to Bradley Allen, a heart surgeon in Chicago. The couple spends weekends together, taking turns flying to see each other. Smith remains in Los Angeles during the week with her 17-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter from a previous marriage.

"Sometimes I just want to pack us all up and move to Chicago, but I'm thinking about two other people and their dad is here, so it gets very complex," she said. "There's this constant pull about different things."

But Smith isn't ready to retire at 54.

"I'm a better person and more interesting by having my career," she said. "I sometimes say when I go do a movie it's a vacation in a sense. Running a house and a family, you're superwoman. My career sort of refuels me and stimulates me."

Smith looks back fondly on her "Charlie's Angels" days a quarter-century ago, despite the show being lambasted by critics as "jiggle" television.

"They just couldn't take it for what it was. We didn't pretend to be doing Shakespeare," she said. "From the public, we were very loved." *AP*

SMITH. Sucker for love stories.

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SaturdaySPECIAL

Martin performs in concert series starting June 8

By Edmund L. Sicam

NIEVERA. No longer a little boy.

MARTIN Nievera just came back from the US, and oh, what a time he had while he was there! During a presscon for his concert series which starts June 8 at Greenbelt's Onstage, he regaled the press about his musical adventure.

Las Vegas

First of all, he was given the chance to show his stuff to some very important people in the Las Vegas circuit, who want to sign him up for a year's worth of shows. Martin's agents in the US had booked him in an intimate nightclub in Las Vegas, for three shows a night for one week. The idea was for the agents to invite 12 important people to watch Martin perform, any of those seven nights. However, due to some unfortunate circumstances, two weeks before the show, the chosen venue was not available. His agents scrambled for a new place, even for just one night.

"So *bale*, I was there to perform for about 12 people. The only room available was the Theater for the Performing Arts at the Aladdin Hotel, *na* 7,000 people *ang* capacity," Martin laughs.

The singer shares that just before he booked the venue, it was used for "Fame" and right after, 98 Degrees performed there, too. Martin surmised that people who run the hotel were thinking, "Who does he think he is, to promote this show in two weeks? It's impossible!"

At first, the hotel would not agree to rent the venue. Luckily, his agents had connections and so Martin got the room for free! However, the agents paid for the sound and lights. Martin helped them pay for this, plus he brought in his own people from Manila. "I wanted to impress the 12 people!"

"Of the 12 people, four came," shares Martin. But those four, Martin reveals, were the best of the 12. The one who was most impressed with Martin was the president of the Hilton Chain of Hotels. Martin quoted him as saying. "This guy… is gonna be…. a big name star…. in less than a year. I want this guy….in my hotel….as soon as possible," Martin recited slowly, for added suspense.

Martin was doubly excited because this guy from the Hilton thinks that after doing a small venue (seating 300) for one year, Martin will be able to seat the big venue, which can fill up to 1,000 people. "That's how much faith this guy has in me!" Martin reveals that he is being asked to sign a contract to perform in Las Vegas for one year.

Hanging question

"What happens to the Philippines?" Martin asks himself. "That is the big hanging question." Martin says that if he does agree to do it, it will not be because of the money. "The money is not that great," Martin divulges. "but I will gain momentum, and exposure to the right people."

So he asks himself again, "Do I take it? Do I ask the Philippines to wait for a while? Tell ABS, maybe we can tape one year's worth of shows? Hahahahaha!" he breaks out into laughter, along with the rest of us, "So many things are hanging." So Martin is trying to negotiate for a shorter contract.

Martin admits that saying yes would mean swallowing his pride a little. "I have to sacrifice what I usually earn. I cannot demand my price. I cannot go to a venue of seven to ten thousand (even if) my last show (here) had 50,000 people."

Martin reveals that his last show led to some reflection. "My concert last February 3, 50,000 people came. I was in a deep depression. I said, 'Now what? What do I do? How can I top this?'"

But then he realized that an artist should not be worried about topping himself, or other performers. Martin says his primary concern is no longer the money, no longer the number of

MARTIN/P.F2

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Bayer

Murphy Brown interviews God in sitcom's final episode

By Nestor U. Torre

AS advertised, "Murphy Brown" bade goodbye to its loyal viewers last Friday, May 25, after many years on the tube. The popular sitcom starring Candice Bergen wasn't just a long-running show, it was also a trend-setter and an eye-opener.

Trend

It helped set the trend for TV shows that addressed issues and problems, instead of blithely escaping from them. And it was an eye-opener because it showed how its female protagonist actively faced up to the problems in her life and solved them in a creative, assertive way.

Thus did the sitcom go beyond shallow and slick entertainment, and helped empower its largely female viewers to similarly address the daunting issues in their own lives.

But all good things must come to an end, and it really *is* better to quit while you're ahead, so it was decided last year that this would be the show's last season.

Exit

Naturally, the sitcom's loyalists wondered how it would make its exit. Would Murphy get married, retire from her job on "FYI," go on the lecture circuit, be the first astronaut to land on Mars, open a school for belly-dancers—*what*?!

Last May 25th's actual series finale wasn't quite so extreme, but it did give the show a unique conclusion: Murphy was able to do her dream interview—with God.

While going under the knife for a possibly cancerous condition, Murphy found herself in a ricketty elevator to Heaven, where she got to ask God (who turned out to be a middle-aged man who looked like the manager of a trendy bakeshop) some of the questions that *we* would ask, if we were granted an interview with the Deity:

BERGEN. In the end, what we remember are the little things.

Decisions

Do our decisions and actions make a difference, or is the outcome of our lives preordained?

"Your actions and decisions do make a difference. Life is a series of choices, which *you* must make," God solemnly intoned.

But why do you fill our lives with problems and crises, like cancer, for instance?

"Illness can be a gift."

How so?!

"It can challenge you to do better, try harder, not to take your blessings for granted, develop resources and strengths you never thought you had. Like Beethoven's deafness: it forced him to 'hear' the music within him!

Plus factors

"Aside from problems, I also give you many plus factors. In your case, Murphy, I gave you attitude, beauty, talent, fame—and you must use them well!

"Remember, celebrity is not for your own enjoyment or advantage, it is an invitation to service. Celebrity generates attention, and you can use that to focus the public's energy on solving problems, like supporting the search for a cure for cancer. So, don't think of retiring!"

But much of life doesn't make sense, specially at this time, when things have become so dark, so complicated. And many people no longer believe in You.

End of interview

"The important thing is, *you* do. So, end of interview. You've still got work to do!"

Thus did Murphy find herself back on the operating table—and, when she opened her eyes, she saw a most beautiful sight: the face of George Clooney, smiling down on her!

Amusingly, that was the extent of Clooney's "special guest participation" in the sitcom's final episode: one single shot! Up to the very end, the show hadn't lost its penchant for playfully tweaking its viewers.

After that, Murphy announced to her staff that she was rescinding her decision to retire from newscasting. Her handyman-buddy Eldon came back after four years to propose marriage to Murphy, which she cheerfully turned down (to his relief).

Friends

So (even as the sitcom ended), life would go on for Murphy Brown and her friends—as boisterously as ever.

Before fading to black for good, the show left its viewers with these final thoughts: In the end, what we remember are the little things. And, we never know what life has in store for us, so we should be open to all of its possibilities!

Message received, loud and clear. And thanks, Murphy, for the precious, little memories!

Zsa Zsa's last night at Captain's Bar

MONTAGE

TONIGHT'S your last chance to watch Zsa Zsa Padilla as she takes a walk down memory lane with the music she's grown up with in "In My Life...Zsa Zsa" at Captain's Bar, with Louie Ocampo as musical director and Johnny Manahan as director. She is busy on her next album, which features a rare collection of all-original songs.

Streisand concert on Star Movies

"Timeless—Live in Concert," Barbra Streisand's New Year show at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas airs on Star Movies on June 7 at 9 p.m.

Kicking off with the Savion Glover tap dance sequence, the concert segues into Streisand's musical performance. The entire New Year's Eve countdown and celebration is presented with confetti and fireworks, including some precious moments—Streisand bending down so singer Lauren Frost can pick confetti from her hair and Mr. And Mrs. Brolin dancing.

From the elegant close-ups of "Alfie and "I've Dreamed of You" to the wider shots of "The Main Event" and "Lover Come Back to Me," this show is not to be missed.

Sex comedy

"Ants in the Pants," a coming of age sex comedy that is a big hit in Germany, will start its regular run in Metro Manila theaters on June. 6. It's all about a 15-year-old boy named Flo (Tobias Schenke), who's clueless when it comes to sex. This changes dramatically one morning as he is awakened from his dreams by a strange voice.

Movie theme song

Viva Records launches the CD single of the song "Alab ng Puso" on "ASAP" tomorrow. "Alab ng Puso" is the theme song of "Buhay Kamao," the "Rocky" inspired movie starring Robin Padilla that hits theaters on June 12. The song was written by Rivermaya's Rico Blanco.

TP auditions

Tanghalang Pilipino will hold auditions today from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. for the initial members of the TP Theater Chorus. Auditions are open to male and female performers, 20-35 years of age and able to sing, act and dance.

Applicants should bring a piano music score sheet or a minus one tape. Although English songs or excerpts from Broadway musicals will be entertained, Filipino classical or traditional songs will be given priority.

Metropop winners

Louie Ocampo and Joey Ayala's patriotic piece "Pag-uwi," interpreted by Martin Nievera, won the top prize of P500,000 at the 2001 Metropop Song Festival held last Saturday.

Coming in second was La Verne Ducut and Catherine Carlos' "Kawikaan," interpreted by Cynthia Alexander. The third prize went to Dennis Garcia's "Heaven-Sent," interpreted by Saisons and Friends, featuring Ella Mae.

All winners also received a trophy crafted by glass sculptor Ramon Orlina.

Freestyle at Music Museum

Freestyle will hold its first major solo concert, "Freestyle on Fire" on June 15 and 16 at the Music Museum. The concert features Bituin Escalante as special guest.

The group is expected to do their memorable originals like "Before I Let You Go," "So Slow," "This Time," and "Till I Found You." The Davao-based band is busy with out-of-town gigs and is now working on their third album.

Call 372-6038 to 39

Lloyd Zaragoza's debut album

A new love song on radio is getting good feedback. The song is a mixture of pop, R&B, and ballad. It is called "Dahil Ikaw Lamang" and it comes from Lloyd Zaragoza's self-titled album under Star Records.

Lloyd, the younger brother of Jessa Zaragoza, wants to establish his own identity as a singer.

Other tracks in the album are "Huwag Magtaka," "Sa Piling Mo," and "Mantsa."

Requiem mass

Ateneo de Tuguegarao alumni, friends and former students are invited to attend a requiem mass for Rev. Father Antonio Ma. Cuna, S.J. on June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Xavier House Chapel in Sta. Ana, Manila. Fr. Cuna, the last rector of the only Jesuit school in the north before it was temporarily closed in 1962, passed away on May 29, 2001.

WRR compilation album

WRR 101.9 has released its first compilation album for 2001,"WRR 101.9 Music for Life, Your Love Favorites," a collection of the most-requested love songs on the radio station. (*Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam*)

"ANTS IN THE PANTS." Sex comedy.

FREESTYLE. Music Museum concert.

Martin performs in concert . . . (From page F1)

people who come to his concerts. He is looking for something more.

"My destiny will not be determined by the amount of people who watch my show. I'd rather have quality than quantity," he intones.

Another case in point. Writers were asking Martin why he took the chance and agreed to interpret a song for the Metropop Festival. What if the song lost? Wouldn't it affect his career? His answer: "If you were me, and Louie Ocampo and Joey Ayala wrote a song, and said, 'Would you sing it?' what would you say?" Martin continues, "They said, 'Win or lose, we believe in the song.' So I said, 'Let me hear it.'" After hearing the song, Martin says, he couldn't stop crying. Martin felt as if the song was written just for him.

He totally related to the song. It is about Filipinos who have no choice but to leave the Philippines at a young age to make a name for themselves. "In a way, that's what I'll be doing."

Haunting melody

He describes the winning piece as "a song I can believe in." Martin realized that he has not yet done a song about love of country. "It's always love of....a girl......or a lost.. .whatever." Martin then gave in to the request of the press for him to sing the song *a capella*. The lyrics were indeed beautiful and the melody haunting. Although it was done impromptu, Martin sang it with all his heart. No wonder it won the top prize in last week's Metropop.

Martin said that he and Louie Ocampo have agreed to donate the prize money to charity. They have not yet talked to Joey Ayala so that plan is on hold. Martin shared that winning this year's Metropop would be one of the biggest thrills of his career.

Another event he is preparing for is his concert series at Greenbelt Onstage this June and July. Martin admits it was very hard to choose the songs for his repertoire. He says that there are just some songs that he is required to do. "'Kahit Isang Saglit' - if I don't do that, someone's going to shoot me!" However, songs not sung in the previous series are definitely going to be added. "We're going to go way into the old files of my older, older tunes."

Will he be doing Gary V songs, because in Gary's Onstage series, he did Martin Nievera songs? "I was doing Gary before he was doing me!" Martin declares. "Gary is doing me because I did him. For the record, *ako nauna*!" he emotes, the ham actor that he is.

Martin doesn't think that at present he has surpassed Gary in terms of popularity, exposure and performances. "I think Gary's very hot! He's steaming up! He's on fire!" Martin raves. But then he tones down a bit, "But he's got his own niche."

Martin shares that Gary feels like going to a different level of performing, and Martin can identify with this. "But with Gary, it's more of a calling while mine is more of a career move. ...how sad, '*no*?" suddenly realizing how bad he made himself look. "*Sa kanya, may bumubulong-bulong, si Lord yan!*" Martin says, obviously admiring Gary.

Martin predicts, "(Gary will go) more to gospel music, (singing in) churches. Gary does not follow a trend. There's a bigger plan for him."

Stable

On the personal level, Martin says that his life is now more stable than it's ever been. He has just come from what he calls "four magical days," spent with his children Robin, Ram, and ex-wife Pops in California, USA.

Martin says he was even invited by Joy Ortega (the owner of the house Pops and the kids are staying in), to stay in her house and sleep in the room next to Pops and the kids. "Very tempting!" he said impishly. But Martin felt that it was too big a step, so he decided to stay in a dingy hotel down the street from Joy's house.

But for those four days, Martin was happy. "We were a family. No past experiences were brought up. No pain or anger, or even *parinig*."

Martin reports, "I was on my best behavior! I would talk only when spoken to!" He reveals that he has been reading Pops' newspaper column, something Pops is not aware of. "So I know what kind of guy she's looking for!" Martin shares with a twinkle in his eye, "I made sure I was that guy!"

Martin is more at peace because he feels that the hostility is gone and he and Pops are now friends. "She's OK with the idea that we are what we are, but we still can be a family. We have graduated from anger, hate and *gantihan*, to a more mature love where there's still concern, obligation, give-and-take—and so much fun."

Sense of loss

Although they went to Disneyland's California Adventure and stuff like that, the most fun that they had was in the house, talking about the day that just passed. However, at the same time, Martin feels a sense of loss. "The most painful revelation was, I saw what I had lost," he sighs.

The little boy is finally growing up. It seems Martin's life is slowly falling into place.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JUNE 2 - JUNE 8

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5.30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7.00 Arriba, Arriba 8.30 Da Body en Da Guard 9.30 Pinoy Exposed 10.00 Keep on Dancing 11.00 "F" 11.30 Sports Unlimited 12.00 The Weekend News	6.00 Auto Review 6.30 Slipstream 7.00 Thief Takers 8.00 The Best of MBA 10.00 Explore with Mike 11.00 National Network News 11.30 Auto Focus	6.00 Vanpires 6.30 Sailormoon Super S 7.00 Tropang Trumpo 8.00 Ispup 9.00 Saturday Night Specials *Nelson's Affair* 11.00 Diagnosis Murder	5.30 Brigada Siete 7.00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8.00 Kakabakaba 9.00 GMA's BEST *Xanadu* 11.00 Master Showman Presents 12.30 GMA Network News 1.00 The 700 Club	6.00 Sports World 7.00 Invisible Man 8.00 Martial Law 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Eye of the Spy* 11.00 Business Class	5.00 NBA Jam 5.30 NBA Action 6.00 Habang May Buhay 7.00 Viva Premiere Night *Laging Naroon Ka* 9.00 Kagat Ng Dilim 10.00 2nd Conference PBA Provincial Game	6.00 Born Free 7.00 Lassie '30 Seventh Heaven 8.30 Gilmore Girls 9.30 Studio 23 Presents 12.00 MYX	3.00 Q Snow Case 7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9.00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9.30 Armor of God 10.00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! Coming Attractions 7.00 Celebrity Profile *Kathy Najimy* 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 E! Special 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Uncut *Randy Newman* 11.30 Extreme Close Up 12.00 E! Coming Attractions
SUN	5.30 Knowledge Power 6.00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8.30 Eto na ang Susunod na Kabanata 9.30 ABS-CBN Presents 11.30 The Weekend News	3.00 MBA 8.00 Primetime Specials 10.00 National Network News 10.30 Fashion Watch 11.00 Business & Leisure	6.00 Sinbad the Sailor 6.30 Guyferd 7.00 Sing-Galing 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Eezy Dancing 10.00 Sunday Night Movies *Knight Rider 2000* 12.00 Sentinel	5.30 Partners Mel and Jay 7.00 Bitoy's World 7.30 GMA Telesine 9.30 Sunday Night Box Office 11.30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12.00 GMA Network News 12.30 Little Night of Music	6.00 Shadow Raiders 6.30 Crash Zone 7.00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Just Kidding 8.30 Kids Say the Darnest Thing 9.00 Sunday's Big Event *Copland* 11.00 Sunday Report	4.00 2001 PBA Commissioner's Cup Game 1 *Sta. Lucia vs. Pop Cola* 6.30 Game 2 *Shell vs. Tanduay* 9.00 Sinemaks *Ang Kabit Ni Mrs. Montero* 11.00 Viva Music Channel 11.30 El Shaddai	6.00 Starship Troopers 6.30 Rugrats 7.00 Batman Beyond 7.30 Futurama 8.00 The Nanny 8.30 Spin City 9.00 Will & Grace 9.30 Jack & Jill 10.30 Digital Tour 11.00 Sunday Night Movies	5.00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7.00 Sunday Mini-Series 8.00 Oh Tokyo 9.00 Sunday Night Movies 11.00 Bikini Open	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! Coming Attractions 7.00 E! True Hollywood Story *John Belushi* 9.00 E! Special *Steven Spielberg presents 1941* 11.00 The Best of 60 minutes 12.00 E! Coming Attractions
MON	6.00 TV Patrol 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8.00 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9.30 Judy Ann Drama Special 11.00 Headlines 11.30 Correspondents 12.30 Martin Late@Nite 1.00 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Science 6.30 Chemistry 7:00 PGMA Special 8.00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 10.00 National Network News 11.00 Speed	6.00 F 6.30 Mahha Go Go Go 7.00 Guni-Guni 8.00 The Big Night *School Ties* 10.00 The Big News 10.30 High Tide 11.30 The Big News (Replay)	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 Lupen III 7.30 Pinoy Blockbusters *Joe Pring* 9.30 Kiss Muna 10.30 Front Page 11.00 I-Witness 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 Siempre Te Amare 7.00 Maria del Cielo 7.30 Sparks 8.00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9.00 The X-Files 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 NYPD Blue	6.30 NBA Finals Preview 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9.00 Viva Proudly Presents *Ang Tipo Kong Lalaki* 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Good Take	6.00 MYX 7.00 I Dream of Jeannie 7.30 Making the Band 8.00 Dawson's Creek 9.00 Charmed 10.00 News Central 10.30 Points of View 11.30 Nightman 12.00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 In Focus *World's Best Casino* 8.00 Mysteries & Scandals 8.30 Search Party 9.00 Fashion Emergency 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 60 Minutes 11.00 Wild on *Outback* 12.00 Talk Soup
TUE	6.00 TV Patrol 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Oka Tokat 9.00 Regal Presents 11.00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X 12:30 Martin Late@Nite 1.00 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 8.00 To be Announced 9:00 To be Announced 10.00 National Network News 11.00 Business Insight	6.00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *God of Gamblers I* 9.00 That '70s Show 9.30 Life with Roger 10.00 The Big News 10.30 FX The Series 11.30 The Big News (Replay)	6.00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupen III 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9.00 Kasangga 10.30 Front Page 11.00 The Probe Team 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 Siempre Te Amare 7.00 Maria del Cielo 7.30 Stark Raving Mad 8.00 Ally McBeal 9.00 The Practice 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 Pretender 11.30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6.30 Bayan Ni Juan 7.00 DMZ TV 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9.00 Now Showing 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Good Take	6.00 MYX 7.00 The Three Stooges 7.30 Baywatch 8.30 Angel 9.30 Mad About You 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Zine 12.00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 Celebrity Profile *Jason Alexande* 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 Celebrity Homes 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Uncut *Jay Leno* 11.30 Extreme Close Up 12.00 Talk Soup
WED	6.00 TV Patrol 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8.00 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:30 Kabalikat 11.00 Headlines 11.30 Isyu 101 12.30 Martin Late@Nite 1:00 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 MBA 8.00 To be Announced 9.00 To be Announced 10.00 National Network News 11.00 Family Rosary Crusade	6.00 Pygmalio 6.30 Time Quest 7.00 Planet X 7.30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8.00 Chicago Sons 8.30 Friends 9.00 E.R. 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11.30 Police Academy	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 Lupen III 7.30 Ben Bole Nga 9.00 Larawan 10.30 Front Page 11.00 Imbestigador 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 Siempre Te Amare 7.00 Maria del Cielo 7.30 Malcolm in the Middle 8.00 Roswell 9.00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 Wrestling 11.30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 *Ginebra vs. Mobiline* 7:30 Game 2 *Purefoods vs. SMB* 10.00 Blow By Blow 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Good Take	7.00 Survivor 1 8.00 Survivor 2 9.00 Gameplan 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 The Explorer 12.00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 In Focus *Vegas Showgirls* 8.00 Mysteries & Scandals 8.30 Search Party 9.00 Fashion Emergency 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On *Adventure* 12.00 Talk Soup
THU	6.00 TV Patrol 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Home Along da Riles 9.30 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11.00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol 12.30 Martin Late@Nite 1.00 Global News	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup 8.00 To be Announced 9.00 To be Announced 10.00 National Network News 11:00 Paco Park Presents	6.00 Shufalo 6.30 Fancy Lala 7.00 Guinness World Records 8.00 Soldier of Fortune 9.00 Burning Zone 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Strangers 11.00 New York Undercover 12.00 The Big News (Replay)	6.00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7.00 Lupen III 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Sinerama *Bitoy Ang Itawag Mo Sa Akin* 10.30 Front Page 11.00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 Siempre Te Amare 7.00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Amazing People 8.00 Felicity 9.00 Once and Again 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 The Basketball Show 11.30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 TeleViva Specials *Karibal* 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Good Take	6.00 MYX 7.00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 9.30 Guide to Urban Living 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.30 Travel Time 12.00 MYX	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 Celebrity Profile 8.00 E! True Hollywood Story 9.00 Celebrity Homes 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Uncut *Johnny Depp* 11.30 Extreme Close Up 12.00 Talk Soup
FRI	6.00 TV Patrol 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8.00 Mystic Knights 8.30 Digimon 9.00 Star Cinema Presents 11.00 Headlines 11.30 True Crime 12:30 Martin Late@Nite	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 MBA 8.00 To be Announced 9.00 To be Announced 10.00 National Network News 11.00 Concert at the Park	6.00 Lazenca 6.30 Restol 7.00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request *Eric Clapton* 8.00 Touched By an Angel 9.00 Working 9.30 Normal Ohio 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Friday Box Office	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 Lupen III 7.30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10.30 Front Page 11.00 Emergency 12.00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 Siempre Te Amare 7.00 Maria del Cielo 7.30 Holding the Baby 8.00 Dharma & Greg 8.30 Nikki 9.00 City of Angels 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 *Tanduay vs. Sta. Lucia* 7:30 Game 2 *Pop Cola vs. Alaska* 10.00 Gags Must be Crazy 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7.00 Batman 7.30 Exposed 8.30 West Wing 9.30 Murphy Brown 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.15 Nightman 12.00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 In Focus *High Rollers* 8.00 Mysteries & Scandals 8.30 Search Party 9.00 Fashion Emergency 9.30 E! News Daily 10.00 David Letterman 11.00 Wild On *Sundance* 12.00 Talk Soup

Nonie and Shamaine share marriage vows and theater dreams

By Jocelyn Valle

NONIE Buencamino, 34, never thought he would become an actor. In grade school, he was heavily into sports and didn't go near the Ateneo's performing arts hall, believing that acting in plays wasn't for boys.

Workshop

Everything changed when he moved to Southridge for his secondary schooling. He met Paul Dumol, an accomplished playwright, who prodded him to take an acting workshop. He did, and soon found himself doing chorus chores for Zenaida Amador's Repertory Philippines.

By the time he joined Tanghalang Pilipino, Nonie had fallen deeply in love with acting—a passion that actress Shamaine Centenera also discovered when she was growing up in Naga City.

She became seriously involved in acting as her theatrical background expanded: graduating with honors from the Philippine High School for the Arts; earning a bachelor of arts degree, cum laude, at the University of the Philippines; teaching at the State University; and tackling roles in various stage productions, including Tanghalang Pilipino plays.

It wasn't love at first sight when Nonie met Shamaine, who's a year older, in 1988. They became close friends first and, skipping the courtship stage, realized they were meant for each other. In 1990, the two gifted thespians tied the knot.

Nonie now wishes he could eat, drink and breathe theater. He feels he can do it by putting up a theater group in Los Baños, Laguna, where the couple and their four children settled two years ago.

Children's plays

"We'd like to do children's plays," Shamaine avers. "We are also looking for two-actor plays that we can tour in different parts of the country."

They've asked one of their playwright-friends to pen a piece for them and they've invited another colleague to be their director. But the couple still can't afford to form a production team. "Funding," Shamaine shakes her head. "*Parating* funding *ang problema*."

Shamaine is reminded once again of the sad reality that one can't raise a family on a theater actor's salary. When they had their first child, she recalls, Nonie left Tanghalang Pilipino for the greener pastures of TV and film.

Nonie admits finding himself in alien territory then. He longed for the discipline, order and camaraderie in theater. But he needed to survive.

In time, he was able to adjust his acting to the big and small screens by controlling his voice projection and movement. He also turned to his theatrical training to be able to bring life to his characters, despite not being given time to prepare.

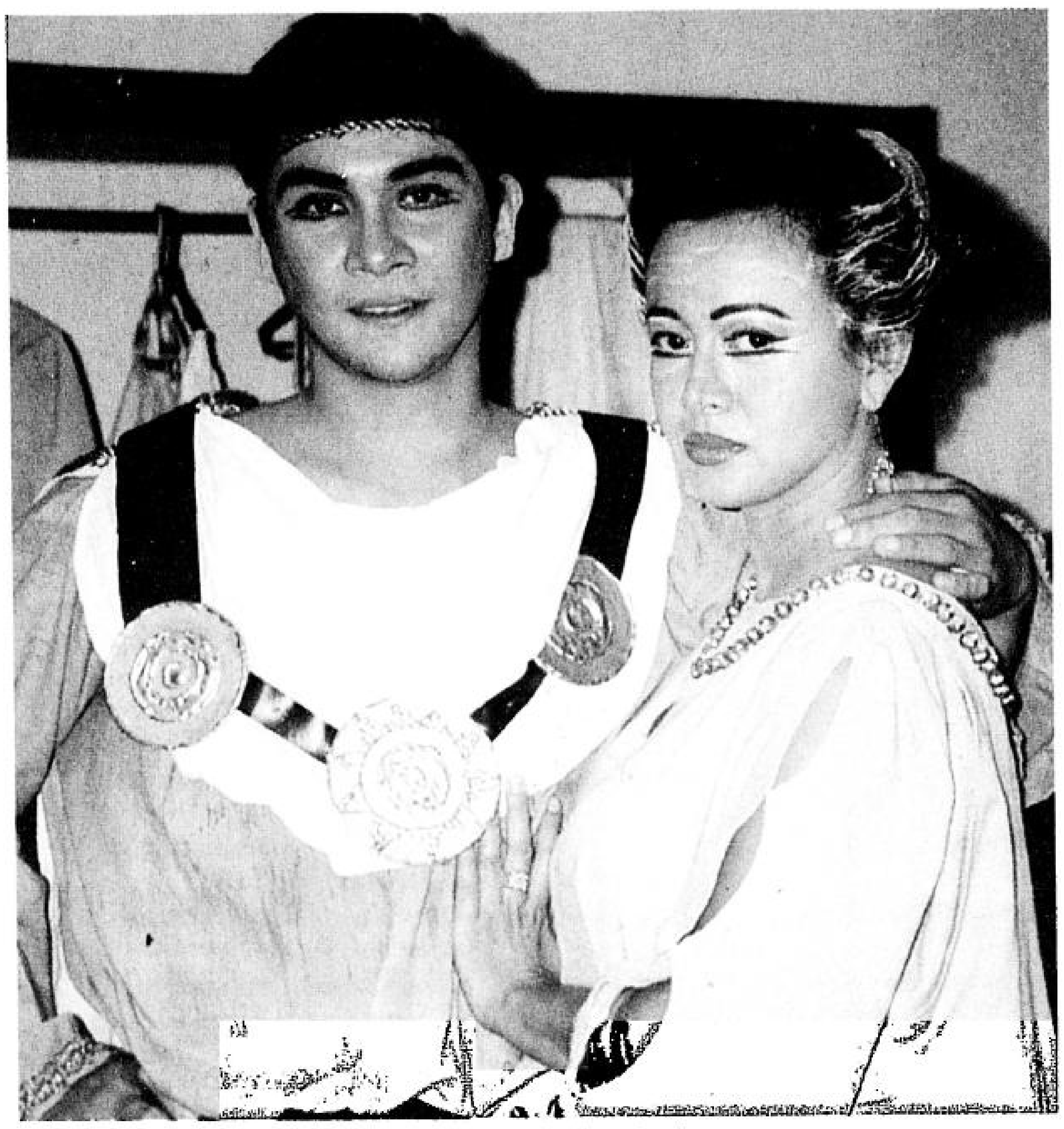
It took a long while before Nonie was able to make a mark in his new domain. When he played Vilma Santos' faithless and vicious husband in Laurice Guillen's "Dahil Mahal Kita (The Dolzura Cortez Story)" with aplomb and credibility, show business finally took notice.

Citations

More interesting roles followed, notably in Mel Tiongio's "Sibak: Midnight Dancers" and Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Milagros," where he won best supporting actor citations from the Star Awards for Movies in 1996 and 1997, respectively.

Nonie's portrayal of the adoptive father of one of the twins played by Claudine Barretto on the recently concluded soap opera, "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" earned him a lot of recall points from the *masa* crowd. Ballet fans, on the hand, can't forget him as Aguinaldo in Agnes Locsin's "La Revolucion Filipina."

In between pregnancies, Shamaine was also able to try TV and movies. But with her organizational skills, she found herself more in-demand in the advertising field as an assistant director. The pay was wonderful, she says now with an impish grin, but she loved performing more.



THE BUENCAMINOS as Oedipus and Jocasta in "Oedipus Rex."

If only she could have her wish. "Doing theater work and earning enough would make us very happy," she muses, cognizant of the fact that it's like asking for the moon—but she remains hopeful. "Theater is a necessity for us," shares Shamaine. "It's therapy."

Nonie, who's a relative of LVN's Doña Sisang and filmmaker Mike de Leon (curiously, the cousins have not worked on a movie yet), finds joy in rehearsals, in performances, in the approval of the audience and in gaining colleagues' respect.

Plan

Good thing, they've devised a plan. With the help of their new manager, fellow thespian Connie Chua, they hope to get more jobs on TV and in movies so that they'll be able to tackle a play at least once a year.

Nonie has wrapped work on three Star Cinema projects, namely Chito Roño's "La Vida Rosa" as the partner in crime of Rosanna Roces and Diether Ocampo, Joel Lamangan's "Mila Cabangon Story" as Maricel Soriano's irresponsible husband who's hooked on gambling, and Ellen Ongkeko's "Angels" as half of the blind couple struggling to keep their family together, opposite Gina Alajar. He's busy shooting another Star Cinema production, Diaz-Abaya's "Mindanao."

In September, he will play the male lead in the British play with music titled "Bliss." Two months earlier, Shamaine will fly to Bali for a series of theater workshops for the Mata Hari Project. Intermittently, she appears on TV dramas.

Until the realization of Shamaine and Nonie's shared dream of either touring a two-character play or putting up their own theater group, the two thespians may not be able to share the stage soon. The last time they did was in 1999, when Shamaine played Jocasta and Nonie, the title role in "Oedipus Rex."

Domestic problems

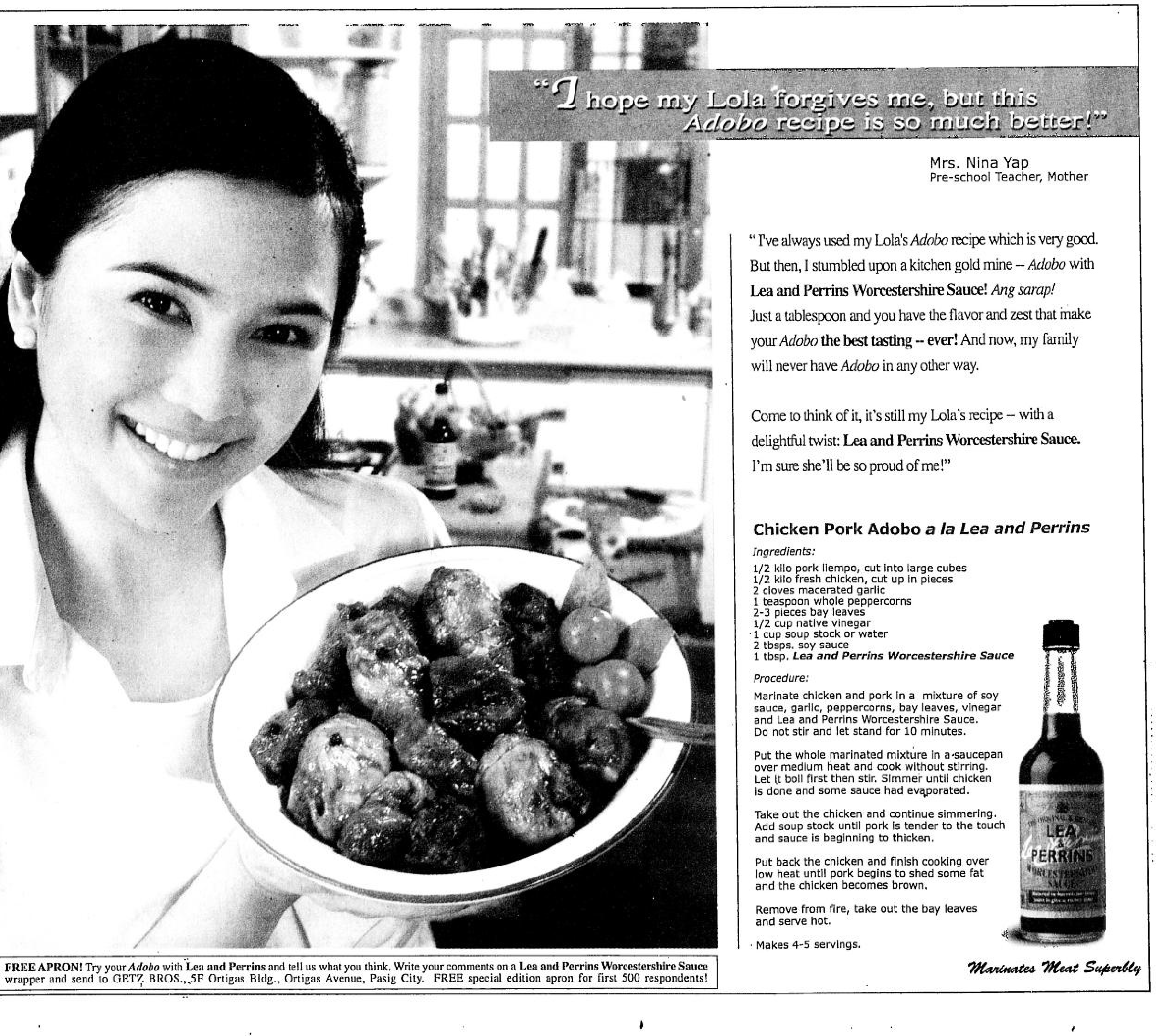
It's not very easy for them to work together, anyway, says Shamaine, recalling the time she and Nonie were doing "Cyrano de Bergerac." "We were married *na*," she remembers, chuckling, "and our director, Tony Mabesa, asked us to leave our domestic problems at home!"

Yes, Shamaine sheepishly nods, they have a volatile household. It's not only she and Nonie who are emotional, but their kids, too. They may have provided the thespic genes, but Shamaine feels that their children are more inclined towards music.

Not surprising, since Nonie belongs to the famed Buencamino clan, whose members include acclaimed pianist Cecil Licad and composer Willie Cruz. He is the one only one in his family who can't play the piano, says Nonie, but he's the only one who can sing.

Will they encourage their little ones to pursue an artistic life? "Only if they can live it," replies Shamaine. "*Kapag kinakain na sila ng* desire."

Meantime, the goal is to finish school. Afterwards, Shamaine and Nonie can finally make their dream theater come true. We can hardly wait for it to happen!



"I hope my Lola forgives me, but this *Adobo* recipe is so much better!"

Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

" I've always used my Lola's *Adobo* recipe which is very good. But then, I stumbled upon a kitchen gold mine – *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!** *Ang sarap!* Just a tablespoon and you have the flavor and zest that make your *Adobo* **the best tasting -- ever!** And now, my family will never have *Adobo* in any other way.

Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe -- with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

Put the whole marinated mixture in a saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings.

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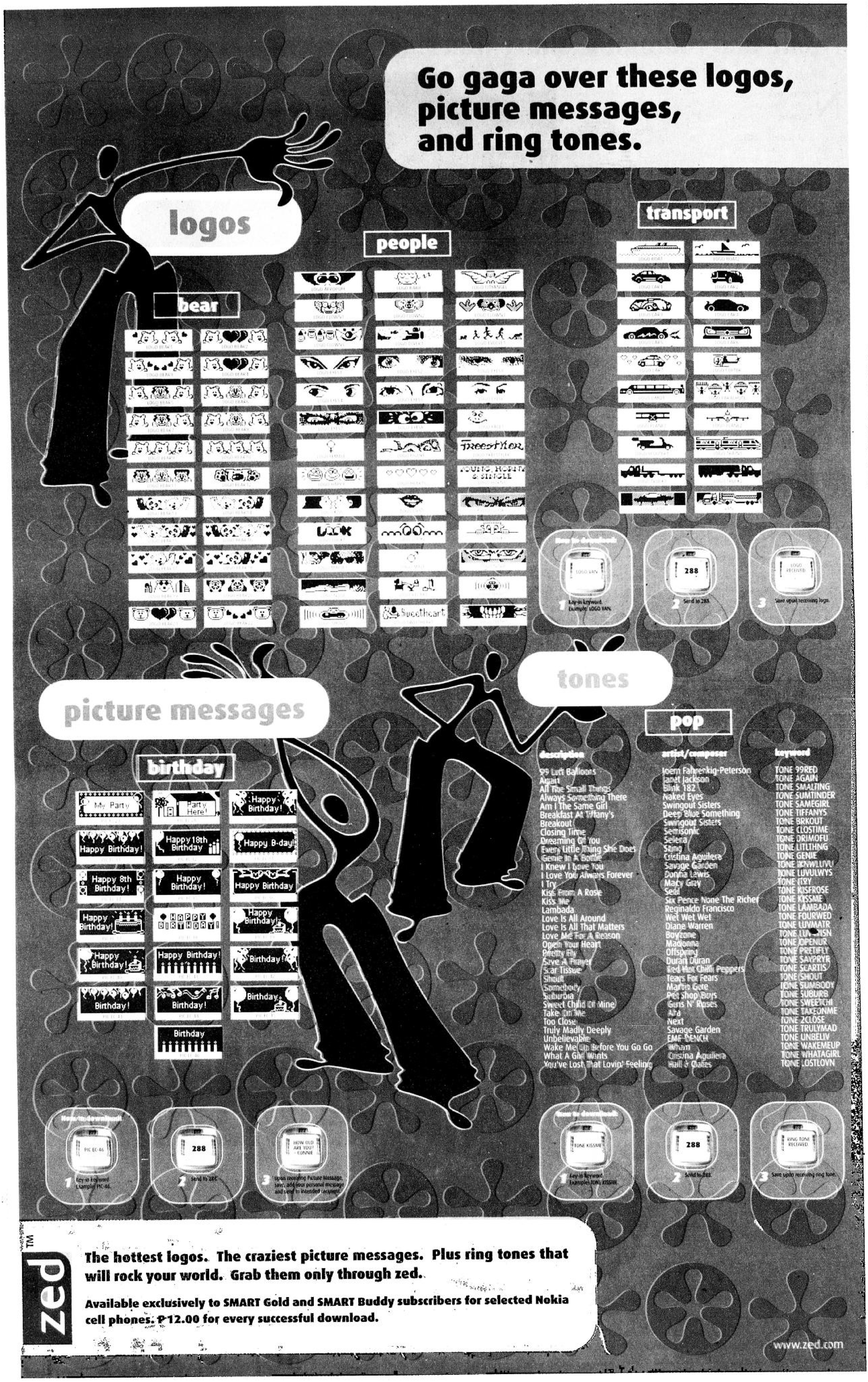
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Again	Janet Jackson	TONE AGAIN
All The Small Things	Blink 182	TONE SMALTING
Always Something There	Naked Eyes	TONE SUMTINDER
Am I The Same Girl	Swingout Sisters	TONE SAMEGIRL
Breakfast At Tiffany's	Deep Blue Something	TONE TIFFANYS
Breakout	Swingout Sisters	TONE BRKOUT
Closing Time	Semisonic	TONE CLOSTIME
Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU
Every Little Thing She Does	Sting	TONE LITLTHNG
Genie In A Bottle	Cristina Aguilera	TONE GENIE
I Knew I Love You	Savage Garden	TONE KNWLUVU
I Love You Always Forever	Donna Lewis	TONE LUVULWYS
I Try	Macy Gray	TONE ITRY
Kiss From A Rose	Seal	TONE KISFROSE
Kiss Me	Six Pence None The Richer	TONE KISSME
Lambada	Reginaldo Francisco	TONE LAMBADA
Love Is All Around	Wet Wet Wet	TONE FOURWED
Love Is All That Matters	Diane Warren	TONE LUVMATR
Love Me For A Reason	Boyzone	TONE LUVRISN
Open Your Heart	Madonna	TONE OPENUR
Pretty Fly	Offspring	TONE PRETIFLY
Save A Prayer	Duran Duran	TONE SAVPRYR
Scar Tissue	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE SCARTIS
Shout	Tears For Fears	TONE SHOUT
Somebody	Martin Gore	TONE SUMBODY
Suburbia	Pet Shop Boys	TONE SUBURB
Sweet Child Of Mine	Guns N' Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
Take On Me	Aha	TONE TAKEONME
Too Close	Next	TONE 2CLOSE
Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden	TONE TRULYMAD
Unbelievable	EMF-DENCH	TONE UNBELIV
Wake Me Up Before You Go Go	Wham	TONE WAKEMEUP
What A Girl Wants	Cristina Aguilera	TONE WHATAGIRL
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SEVENTEEN of the 28 hopefuls aiming for stardom.

Making it to Star Circle 9

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

AMIDST endless chatter and constant cheek buzzing, 28 fresh-faced wannabes saunter into Virgin Café, Tomas Morato. Hmmm, only a few minutes late. A good sign!

> They've had extensive training in acting, singing, dancing and hosting. They're on the road to something big—and some of them have already had a head start

Good idea

Yes, launching them as a group seems to be a good idea. It's been done before by German Moreno on "That's Entertainment." But in this fickle industry where wannabes are a dime a dozen, what will make these boys and girls stand out?

"Blame" it on genes, fate, luck, talent and the extensive training they've had in acting, singing, dancing and hosting. They are on the road to something big—and some of them have already had a head start . . .

Janus del Prado has been cast in fantasy films like "Batang X" and "Magic Kingdom" so he's no neophyte. Playing the bad guy in "G-Mik" shows that he has the makings of a good character actor.

At 12 years old, Angelene Aguilar wants to be like her idol Claudine Barretto. She also dreams of being the next Filipina Miss Universe. But she's willing to be the bratty half-sister of Joyce Jimenez in "Da Body En Da Guard."

Petite but spunky Heart Evangelista feels that being born on Valentine's Day is a blessing. She loves to make people happy with her cheerful disposition, so being the funny Missy on "G-mik" is a breeze.

Spotlight

Hugging the spotlight as children has made it easy for Princess Schuck, Alwyn Uytingco and Hazel Ann Mendoza to venture into show business again as teenagers. Being a child actress on "Ang TV," "Star Drama Presents" and "Flames" has made Princess Schuck comfortable with grueling hours and make-up.

Alwyn is ready to put his kiddie comic antics in "Kaybol" on hold as he matures into a 13-year-old. He wants to try his hand in dramatic roles.

Hazel Ann can cry buckets of tears as a child and playing Kristine Hermosa's obedient little sister on the primetime soap, "Pangako Sa Iyo" seem to be a good transition for her as a teener.

The masses are fascinated with good looks and a thick foreign accent. *Balikbayans* are a definite shoo-in for show business. Aside from having the *mestizo-mestiza* appeal, being a little *coñotic* and *sosyal* are plus points.

Rafael Rosell IV left Norway to try his luck in acting. After staving off loneliness, he earned several commercial endorsements and a guesting stint on "Maalaala Mo Kaya" opposite Janet McBride. He feels that being an actor will give him immense satisfaction because he can touch and affect people's lives through his performances.

Like Ariel Rivera, Pascal Greco grew up in Canada. He loves watching TV and indulging in martial arts. He's a sports enthusiast and plays soccer, baseball and basketball.

Action star

He wants to be an action star like Robin Padilla.

He can be funny and sensitive at the same time as he talks about his family in Canada.

Nina Mercado lived in San Francisco for 12 years. She dreams of dating Dawson Leary of "Dawson's Creek" and wants to play billiards and soccer with him all day. She feels that her talkativeness and friendliness will help her achieve her dream.

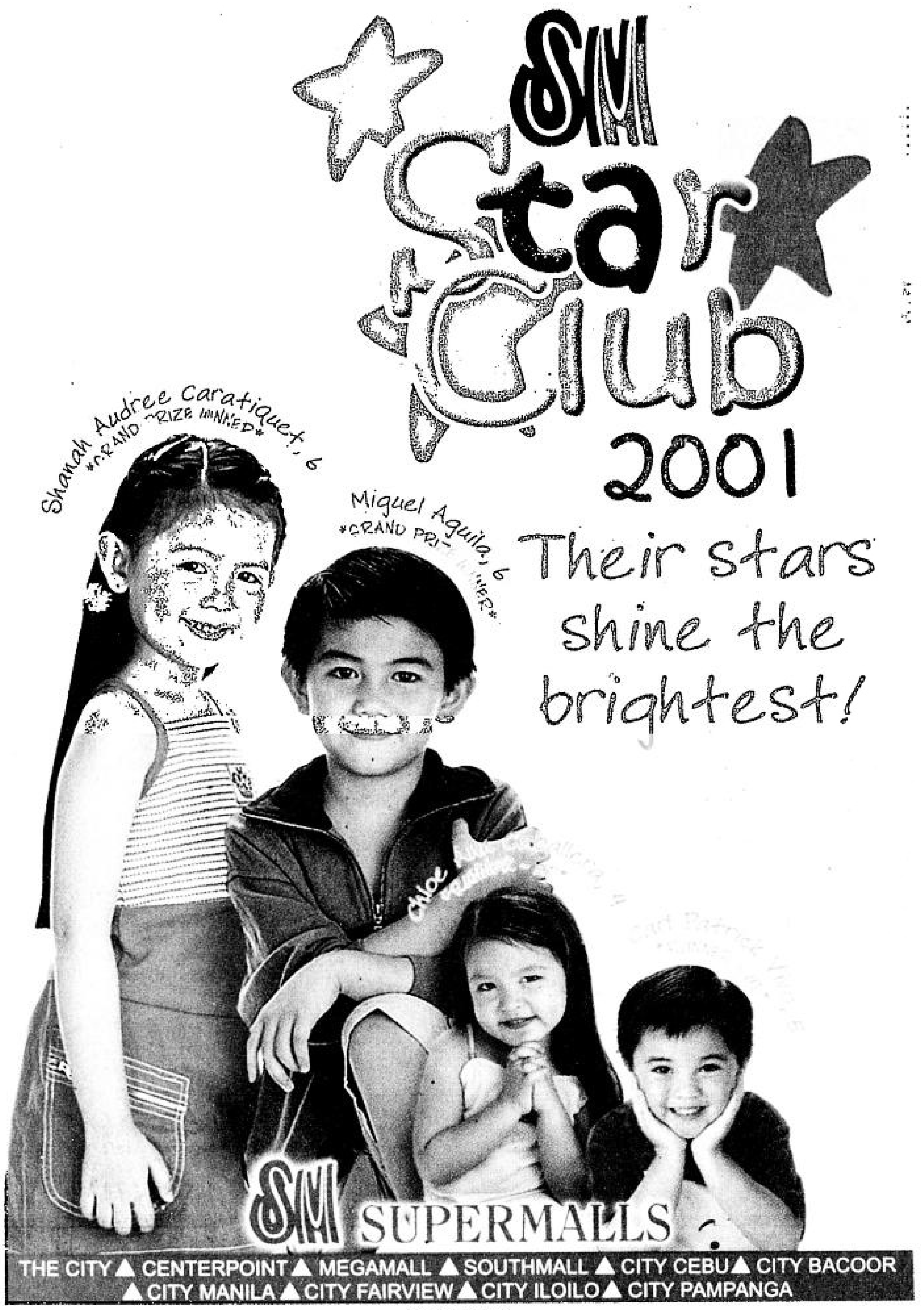
Djohanna Rios came to Manila from New York to meet her idol Vanessa del Bianco but ended up as a wannabe instead. Dancing, acting and singing with Vanessa are prospects she wouldn't want to miss.

Having a relative in show business makes a newcomer's entry easy and smooth, but it doesn't guarantee instant success. A familiar family name helps, but a good working attitude is much better.

Khalil Kaimo says he's willing to try anything. He could be a funny TV lawyer like John Cage or be as brazen and cool as James Bond, or dramatic like Robert de Niro. He prefers comedy and action roles to newscasting. But he agrees that surpassing the popularity of his dad, Mari Kaimo, is not a realistic goal.

Venturing into rap music like his older brother, Carlos, is a dream come true for Michael Agassi. Living in the shadow of his brother is not a problem because he exudes the same charm and determination. To improve his lean physique, Michael went into rock climbing and weight training.

Starting out is tough, but with patience and determination, these guys are definitely on their way.



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AM/FM

Margarita Holmes' 'The Naked Truth' heats up the airwaves

By Rito P. Asilo

HOLMES. Fields questions of an extremely sensitive nature.

WE TUNED in to dzFE 98.7 on FM again to see if we could catch another set of showtunes as we did last week. This time, it was Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I."

No, this was not the 1956 version, which starred Oscar winner Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr (whose singing voice was dubbed by Marni Nixon), but a 1990s recording which featured "Gandhi" star Ben Kingley (as the King), Julie Andrews (as Anna) and Lea Salonga (as Tuptim), among others.

Winners

New cast or not, the songs from this musical are always winners. Don't tell me you don't remember "Getting to Know You," "I Have Dreamed," "Whistle A Happy Tune," "My Lord and Master" and "Shall We Dance"?

If you enjoy a relaxing time listening to classical music and your favorite Broadway tunes on dzFE, tuning in to the controversial Margarita Holmes on radio is a completely different experience.

Dr. Holmes' "The Naked Truth" (Sundays, 7-9 p.m.), aired over dwIZ 882 khz on the AM channel, possesses all the ingredients that a radio program needs to be a hit—wit, candor, education, titillation, information and shock value. Not that she's anywhere near the irreverence or the no-holds-barred style of American "shock radio" icons, the ultra-conservative Rush Limbaugh or the self-proclaimed "King of All Media," Howard Stern. She sounds sincere.

We recently caught the last hour and a half of her program and were quite intrigued, amused and entertained by what we heard. The questions from the listeners went direct to the point and were of an extremely sensitive, mostly sexual, nature.

Co-anchors

To Holmes' credit, these questions were addressed by Holmes and her co-anchors (medical doctors Lloyd, Jojo and Ate Nenette) intelligently and with tact. From time to time, she would say things like, "I'm sorry we can't answer that question on-air *kasi palaging nakikinig si* Cardinal Sin."

Listening to the callers and their questions, even those sent through snail mail, pager or text message, one would not get the impression that Filipinos are a conservative or sexually repressed race—just a very secretive one.

We sometimes felt uncomfortable hearing the stories and questions of listeners talking casually about sexual matters like they were discussing the color of their nail polish. It kept you guessing what the next shocking question would be.

Obviously, we can't print some of the questions here because they were really graphic but the anchors were smart enough to find medical and psychological twists around them. For very urgent situations, they have a hotline in the Remedios area that people can call for advice.

One woman said, "Tomboy *ako*. And I have a girlfriend who got pregnant after having an affair with an officemate. She threatens to kill herself if I leave her."

Confession

That confession alone was interesting to hear but what came next was even more surprising—she asked if a gastrointestinal drug was really abortifacent. And this was on primetime radio! Good thing the anchors were quick to answer that what her girlfriend needs is counseling, not drugs.

A 23-year-old guy asked if it was okay for him to be circumcised at his age. The answer: "Yes, any age." But he was more concerned about the pain. He asked if getting a circumcision would be more painful than having his tooth pulled. Ouch!

He also wanted to know which food groups enhance sperm count, and he was advised to take the protein-rich kinds. And, what should he wear so people won't know while he's "recuperating?" The suggestion—*puruntong* shorts!

Another woman asked about the hot flushes, generalized body pains and itchiness that she experiences, now that she is 49 and she was advised to take Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) or vaginal moisturizers and lubricants.

A sexually frustrated woman asked for advice about what she should do to perk up her sex life with her husband after he suffered a stroke. His sexual prowess had considerably ebbed and she was miserable.

A guy complained about the size of his penis. He said he can't swim (he *loves* to swim) or play sports. The anchors doubted if the letter-sender was just, uh, pulling their legs.

Infection

Another girl agonized over her boyfriend's reaction after they both got urinary tract infection. He accused her of having sex with another guy and infecting him. But UTI is *not* an STD!

Other questions and complaints: "My friends and I used a prostitute and I got STD from it. I have been cured, but will I infect my wife if I kiss her?" (Yes, he can); "Is withdrawal safe?"; "He finishes after 30 seconds, and I feel offended"; "He (age 45) wants it once a month, I (age 25) want it three times a week!"

"Is it bad for my husband and me to indulge in sex on a daily basis?" (They do it thrice a day, sometimes.); "He likes it through another orifice, I don't! He tells me I don't love him enough." Whew!

The program is flooded with questions, some funny, some intelligent, some stupid. And they are all addressed with care and wit. Sometimes they sound so medical that the anchors slow down to explain them in laymen's terms.

The show runs for only two hours but Dr. Holmes stays in the radio station to answer questions from 9 to 10:30. Now, how's that for service? And one nice thing about them is their very accommodating way of dealing with questions. Sometimes they just laugh around questions they feel are not seriously meant.

The program is definitely not for everybody. But for those who listen, they're bound *not* to be bored.

Where did my name go?

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

EVER since I turned 18, I've made it a point to cast my vote everytime there's an election. Since I was brought up to believe that not to do so would make me a "bad" citizen, I make sure that no matter where I live or whatever district I belong to, I register and vote.

But last May 14 was different: I was not able to vote! My name was not in the registration lists. It was strange because, as in past years, I did everything I usually do on "E" day: I carefully drafted my choices, woke up early and went to my precinct. Can you imagine how frustrating it was to find out that I did not exist (at least as far as the Comelec is concerned)?

Excited

And to think that I was very excited about this year's election. A lot of my friends in show business were running, so I was very curious how they would fare.

Let me tell you a secret: I myself almost ran for office! The thought just popped into my head one day, and before I knew it, someone from this big political party was sending me feelers to join their ticket. It was tempting, of course, but I withheld my answer and prayed over the offer for many days.

In the end, I realized that though many are called, few are chosen. God showed me that I should decline the offer no matter if they pledged their full support to my would-be candidacy. To this day, I do not regret letting go of that "chance."

So, what did I do? I opted to become one of the silent observers. When news that many show biz personalities desired to enter politics reached my ears, I couldn't help but laugh and secretly ask, "*Bakit?*"

Will power

In truth, many of these *artistas* consulted me on their political plans. Not the type who discourages a person, it took a lot of will power on my part to tell them outright, "*Huwag!*"

So they went out and tried to win the people over with speeches containing the same promises that we've all heard before. Often in my radio show, I asked aloud if we'd be able to see these people once we installed them in office.

It even became a beauty contest of sorts as stars tried to outdo each other and their competition by putting their prettiest picture in their campaign posters. As it turned out, everyone had the same pose, as if they were doing a toothpaste commercial. I often asked myself, "Did they go to the same studio and make-up artist?"

In the end, everything was to no avail. As the election results start trickling in, I have to keep myself from saying, "I told you so!"

Many show biz candidates lost the elections. This time, it seems, people had a new way of choosing stars because of what happened to ex-president Estrada. This is sad because there are some who have the desire and the capability to make a difference.

Machinery

My heart goes out especially to the independent candidates who did not have the machinery to guarantee a decent campaign plan to compete with those who had "it" (money). I heard of this councilor who lost because he did not have watchers to oversee the counting of ballots. It's a sad reality that money delivered the loudest and most convincing speech in the last elections.

But, back to the case of my missing name: I remember teaching even my household help how to vote (but not whom to vote for, mind you) because I wanted to make sure that their voices were heard. Before heading for my precinct, just to get a feel of how things were coming along, I visited other precincts.

As expected, everything was a mad rush of people going in and out as the democratic process progressed. There were campaign paraphernalia everywhere, voters looking for their names and happy expressions on people's faces as they came out the precincts, believing they had made the right choices.

So there I, was at Miriam College, where I've always voted (as a resident of Loyola Heights for many years). I asked my assistant, Pete, to go look for my name first so that, when I stepped out of my car, I could go straight to where I was listed and vote.

Dismay

Imagine my dismay when Pete came back with news that my name was missing. I tried to clarify the "mystery" but no one could provide an answer. Someone tried to pacify me by saying, "*May isang buong pamilya nga dyan na hindi nakaboto.*" And I was supposed to feel better because I was just one voter?

At first, I thought of complaining. But one look at the people around me and I knew they were hungry and tired. Another complaint was not something they'd appreciate, surely.

So I wasn't able to vote. But the question remains: What happened? Can you imagine if I pushed through with my candidacy? Why, I'd probably be the only candidate whose name was unlisted! Why is our election system as disorderly as it is? And, most important question of all—

Where did my name go?!

Five questions for Rachel Weisz

By Samantha Critchell

WEISZ. Loves to travel.

NEW YORK—Rachel Weisz has no grand life plan.

When asked where she sees herself in five years, Weisz replies, "I hope to still be working and have a family. Nothing more exotic than that."

That doesn't mean the 30-year-old British actress won't be busy.

Weisz and Brendan Fraser, stars of 1999's "The Mummy," are back for "The Mummy Returns," which opened in US theaters recently.

The sequel is set eight years after the first movie. Professional wrestler The Rock co-stars as a new villain, the Scorpion King, who battles the resurrected mummy Imhotep.

Working on the sequel was enjoyable, Weisz says, because it reunited the same "mob" of actors, director and crew.

Weisz also stars in "Enemy at the Gates" with Jude Law and Joseph Fiennes and in "Beautiful Creatures," which were released earlier this year.

When she's not working, Weisz loves to travel, and her favorite place to visit is Italy.

She'll soon begin rehearsals for a London stage production of "The Shape of Things," and will play the object of Hugh Grant's desire in the film "About a Boy."

Q &A:

Your "Mummy" character has become one tough lady. Would you call her a female action hero?

Weisz: I'm an adventurer, and I suppose I'm doing things that aren't traditionally female, whatever that means.

How did you train for the film?

We learned the ancient Japanese martial art of Sai, where you have the two little swords that you have in your hands. It's technically a really difficult fight to learn. And we spent four or five months, Patricia Velasquez and myself, learning it, like in the mornings, in the evenings, before filming, after filming and lunch breaks. But you have to practice every day and I haven't done it since September, so I would be no better at it now than you.

The necklace you're wearing has the initials "EP." Anyone special?

Elvis Presley. I got this at Graceland. I'm a big Elvis fan. Graceland is cool, kind of kitschy, but it's great fun.

If I toured your home, what would I find?

You'd find I'm very messy. Very, very messy. You'd find chaos. I struggle to be tidy. I never throw anything out. I'm a hoarder so you'd find letters from when I was at school from my girlfriends.

You describe yourself as a "devoted" Londoner. What makes someone a "devoted" Londoner?

Eating HP sauce, although maybe that's more English. It's a brown sauce you have with your eggs. It's really yummy. In east London, where it's a cockney tradition, they eat stuff like cockles and whelks—these crustacean things—and jellied eels. But I don't eat jellied eels. *AP*

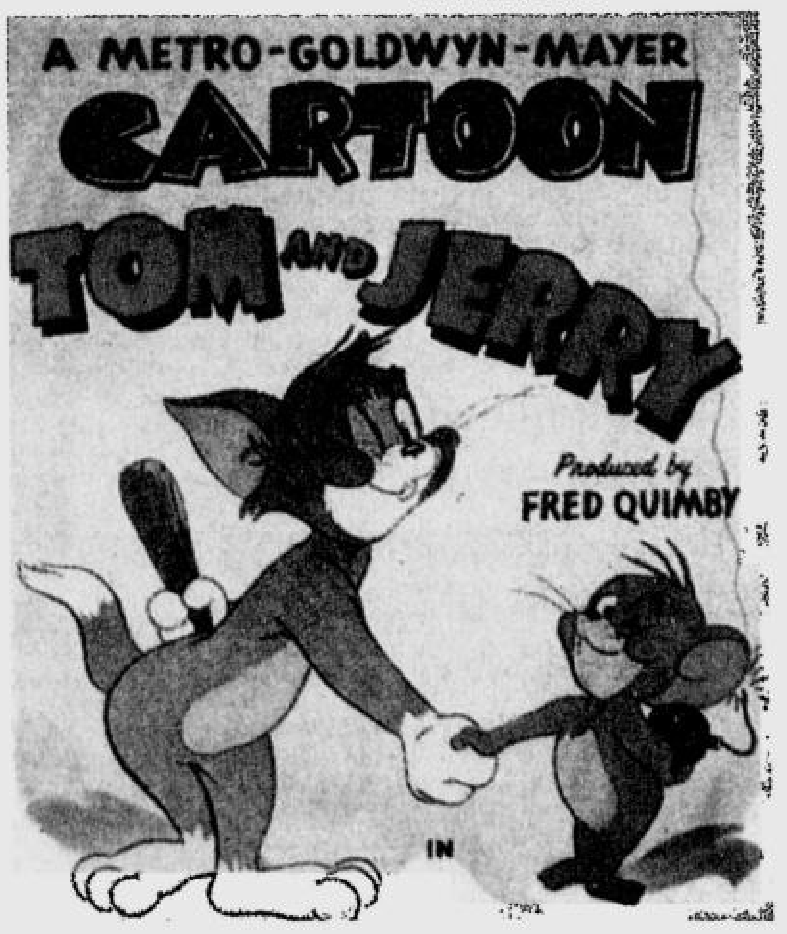
Outstanding 'magicians' of the film medium

By Nestor U. Torre

DISNEY. Insisted on technical excellence.

MELIES (left) rehearses a shot for one of his fantasy films.

HANNA and Barbera's Tom and Jerry starred in more than 150 short cartoons.



FILM is many things to different people. In its purest form, it's visual "magic," and nowhere is this magical element more wonderfully showcased than in fantasy and sci-fi films.

Animators

Among the most acclaimed and admired "magicians" of the film medium are animators like Joseph Barbera and William Hanna, Norman McLaren, Lotte Reiniger and Walt Disney.

Hanna and Barbera are best known for Tom and Jerry, their most beloved cartoon characters, whose droll capers have delighted audiences for more than 50 years.

Hanna was a songwriter and Barbera worked as a cartoonist when they teamed up in 1939 at the MGM shorts department. Barbera drew, Hanna directed, and both wrote scripts about the endless struggle between their signature cat and mouse characters.

Tom and Jerry first appeared in "Puss and Boots" and went on to star in 150 other short cartoons, seven of which won Oscars.

Cartoon division

When MGM closed its cartoon division in 1957, Barbera and Hanna put up Hanna-Barbera Productions, which came up with many hit TV cartoon series like "The Flintstones," "Yogi Bear" and "The Jetsons."

For his part, Norman McLaren widened the parameters of the art of animation, experimenting with abstract forms, different types of music, and innovative techniques, like drawing images directly on celluloid.

His 16-mm documentary, "Seven Till Five" (1933) got him financial backing for "Camera Makes Whoopee," which in turn attracted the attention of documentary filmmaker John Grierson, who asked McLaren to join the GPO film unit in London. In 1938, he made his first professional animated film, "Love on the Wing."

Greater cachet

In 1941, Grierson and McLaren went to Canada and McLaren set up the National Film Board there, producing a series of outstanding films that delighted film buffs everywhere and gave animated productions greater cachet in the artistic community.

In "Neighbors" (1952), McLaren developed the technique known as pixillation—he photographed live actors on each frame of film to create a unique robotic effect.

Over in Germany, Lotte Reiniger was adapting Chinese shadow theatre to film, as well as inventing a special silhouette technique, first used in "Das Ornament des verliebten Herzens" (1922).

She later won international acclaim with the world's first feature-length animated film, "The Adventures of Prince Achmed" (1926), an imaginative tale full of monsters, witches, a magic lamp and a rescued princess.

Musical themes

When sound films became popular, Reiniger did animated movies on musical themes—"Carmen," "Papageno" and "Heléne."

Finally, Walt Disney was an obsessive animator whose insistence on technical excellence led to his making "Steamboat Willie" in 1928—it was the first Mickey Mouse cartoon with sound. Disney himself supplied Mickey's voice.

Disney and his collaborator, Ub Iwerks, developed two- and three-strip color with the multiplane camera, which gave animation more credible perspective and detail.

The first Disney feature, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (1937) had all the classic components: clearly defined and often eccentric characters, imaginative twists and turns in the storytelling, memorable songs, and crisp pacing.

Other hits

Disney's other hits included "Fantasia" (1940), "Bambi" (1942), "Lady and the Tramp" (1955) and "101 Dalmatians" (1960).

In 1950, Disney started making live-action films and putting up theme parks, but his studio's main contribution is still its animated films.

Even after Disney passed away in 1966, the Disney studio continued to make animated features. Its 1994 production, "The Lion King," is the most financially successful cartoon feature ever produced.

Precursor

Before we end this tribute to pioneering film animators, we must make mention of their precursor, French filmmaker Georges Melies, who in 1902 had already come up with the highly innovative "A Trip to the Moon," which made use of animation in some sequences.

He is also known for "The Conquest of the Pole," which some film buffs regard as his most imaginative film.

Instructively, before Melies made movies, he was an illusionist. And, when he stopped making films in 1915, he went back to being a magician!

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?"

let's talk

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"MOULIN Rouge" star Nicole Kidman and director Baz Luhrmann at the movie's premiere night in Australia.

Baz Luhrmann opens 'red curtain' for latest movie musical

By David Germain

CAPD'ANTIBES, France—From early boyhood, Baz Luhrmann was a showman, a storyteller, a dabbler in all fields of performing arts.

Main street

Luhrmann had to be, growing up in a tiny way station in the Australian countryside, where culture was scarce and the main street had just 11 houses. For lack of outside entertainment, Luhrmann staged theatrical shows, played music, made short films and set up a radio station in his family's gas station.

The medium always has been secondary to the story itself, which helps explain Luhrmann's far-flung success in movies, theater, opera and pop music.

His productions for the Australian Opera in Sydney include "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "La Boheme," the latter which he plans to re-stage on Broadway. A concept album Luhrmann produced included the inspirational spoken-word hit "Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)."

Luhrmann's first two films, "Strictly Ballroom" and "William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet" were box-office successes despite seemingly uncommercial premises, one set in the world of competitive formal dance, the other presenting modern street punks gabbing in iambic pentameter.

Now comes "Moulin Rouge," Luhrmann's biggest and broadest project. A musical set around Paris' Moulin Rouge can-can club in 1899, the film stars Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor as tragic lovers in a fiery adaptation of the Orpheus myth.

Once again, not the stuff that hits are made of, by Hollywood standards. But with dazzling visuals and wild mix of 20th century pop music, Luhrmann hopes the film can help revitalize the movie musical, a genre practically dead for decades.

"I think audiences want musicals," Luhrmann said in an interview at the lush Hotel Du Cap that lodges many celebrities for the Cannes Film Festival, where "Moulin Rouge" was the opening-night movie May 9.

"People do want it, even those that say, 'Oh, how corny.' They actually want the heightened emotional experience that comes of the collusion, when you can make it work, between music and story."

Playful tunes

Among the film's playful tunes: A sexy tango version of Sting's "Roxanne"; co-star Jim Broadbent leading a comic chorale on Madonna's "Like a Virgin," snippets of "The Sound of Music," some of them sung by a green fairy (pop singer Kylie Minogue) that materializes off the label of an absinthe bottle; and a love medley with Kidman and McGregor trading verses from Phil Collins' "One More Night," the Beatles' "All You Need Is Love" and David Bowie's "Heroes."

The film sizzles with rapid-fire montages, colorful costumes and opulent sets including a bedroom suite inside a giant bejeweled elephant.

"The appeal of working with him is just that he's brilliant, and to be the focus of his world, even if it's only for six months, a year, that's one of the highlights of my life," said Kidman, who plays Satine, the star of the Moulin Rouge. "He's truly one of the most inspired directors, I think, of all time. He has this bizarre way of looking at the world. And bizarre's a compliment."

Luhrmann, 38, was raised in Herron's Creek, a small burgh along an Australian highway where his family ran a number of businesses, including the local movie theater for a brief time.

Collaborators

He studied drama in Sydney, where he met many of his regular troupe of collaborators, including his wife, Catherine Martin, production designer on "Moulin Rouge," and writing partner Craig Pearce.

"Moulin Rouge" is the third of what Luhrmann calls his "red-curtain cinemas," films based on primary myths, such as Orpheus' journey into the underworld for love, and told with some artistic mechanism that yanks viewers into a different plane.

Luhrmann prefers to call his latest film "musical cinema" rather than a musical, a form that peaked in the 1950s and 1960s with productions such as "Singin' in the Rain" and "West Side Story" but declined with the advent of naturalism in film.

Hard reality

"Part of the whole excitement about doing it was trying to crack that, trying to nail that and see how we could make it work today," said McGregor, who plays Christian, a young writer whose idealistic notion of love is corrupted by the hard reality he discovers at the Moulin Rouge.

None of Luhrmann's films have been easy sells to studios. His first trip to Cannes was to court financiers for "Strictly Ballroom," but he couldn't even get the ear of film backers "one level up from the porn-cassette sellers," Luhrmann said.

After lining up financing in Australia, he brought the finished film to Cannes, where "Strictly Ballroom" gained positive reaction that helped secure its worldwide release.

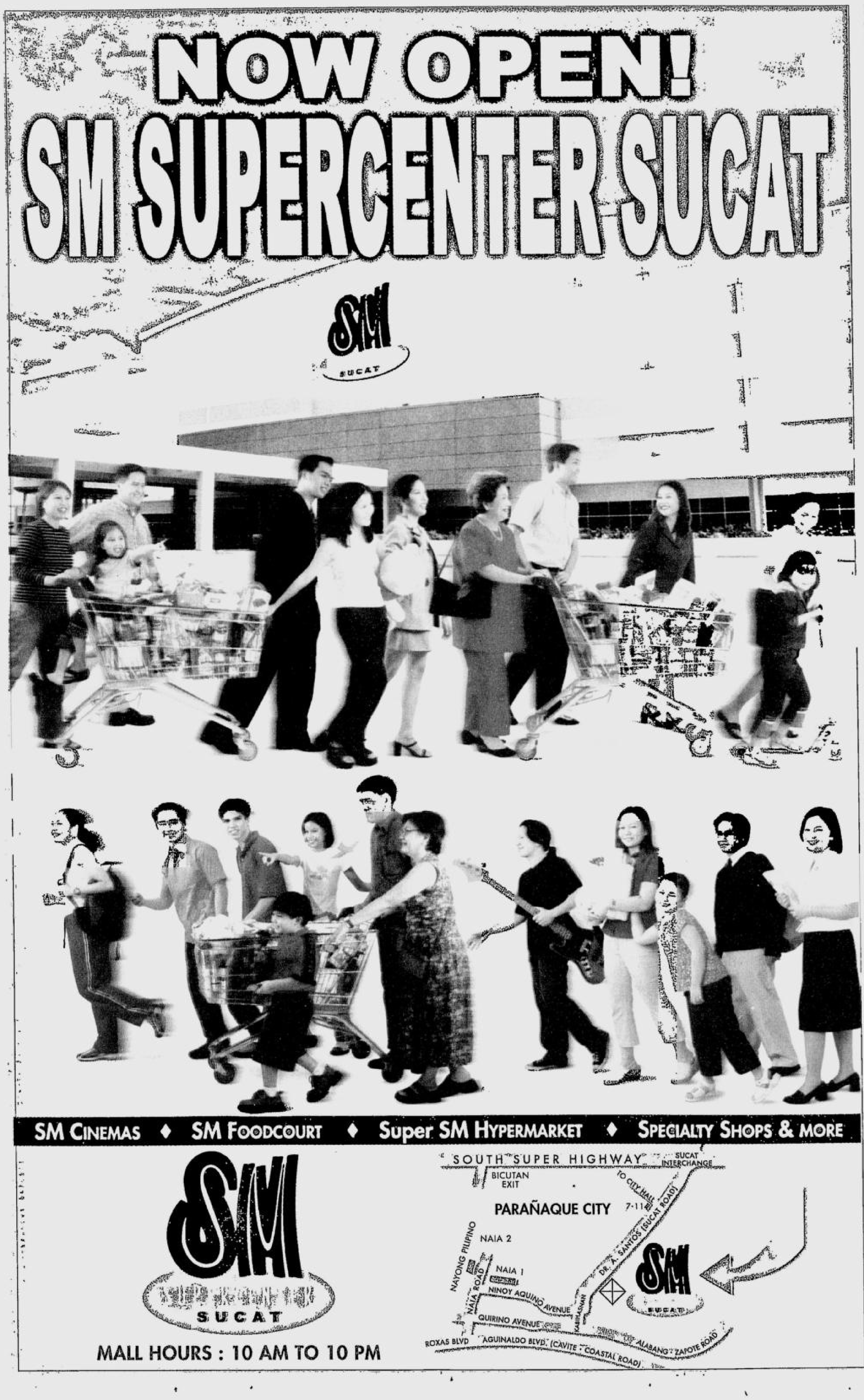
Luhrmann managed to convince the skeptical 20th Century Fox to fund "Romeo and Juliet," which went on to gross $140 million worldwide.

Despite those successes, Fox had doubts about putting up $50 million for a musical set in Paris' bohemian counterculture a century ago.

"We thought he was nuts, but that's the great thing about Baz. He's always pushing the boundaries," said Tom Rothman, co-chairman of Fox's studio operations. "We also thought he was nuts about doing contemporary Shakespeare with guns and cars in Miami for kids, but it worked."

Luhrmann hopes "Moulin Rouge" follows that pattern, blending serious themes and unusual settings with crowd-pleasing execution.

"They have never appeared commercial initially. No one ever said, 'Oh, my God, ballroom dancing. What a great idea,'" Luhrmann said. "But 'Strictly Ballroom' is not about ballroom dancing. 'Romeo and Juliet' is not about Shakespeare. 'Moulin Rouge' is not about can-can dancing. Those are the worlds they're set in, but what they're about is something else." *AP*



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The Fish Doctors

In the United States vets are looking for fish to treat and not to eat

NOT A COOK. He may look like he's about to, um, prepare the fish for a yummy stir-fry, but Scott Weber is not a cook. He's a fish doctor for the New Jersey State Aquarium in the United States. In the picture he's preparing a black sea bass for X-ray at the University of Pennsylvania's veterinary hospital in Philadelphia. This was a follow-up visit for the 15-inch fish, which had a near one-pound tumor removed from its belly. *AP*

CAMDEN, New Jersey—Do you have a sullen goldfish or a piqued piranha?

They may need the services of Lou Jeanne Cuje, a fish medic who does what most traditional doctors have given up long ago: make house calls.

"I get more phone calls from local pond owners. Their fish get sick," says Cuje, 40, who left a career as a CAT scan technologist (a CAT scan is a kind of X-ray used to see cross-section images of our bodies, especially the brain, the lungs, liver, spleen and other soft tissues). He is now studying to become a veterinarian specializing in fish.

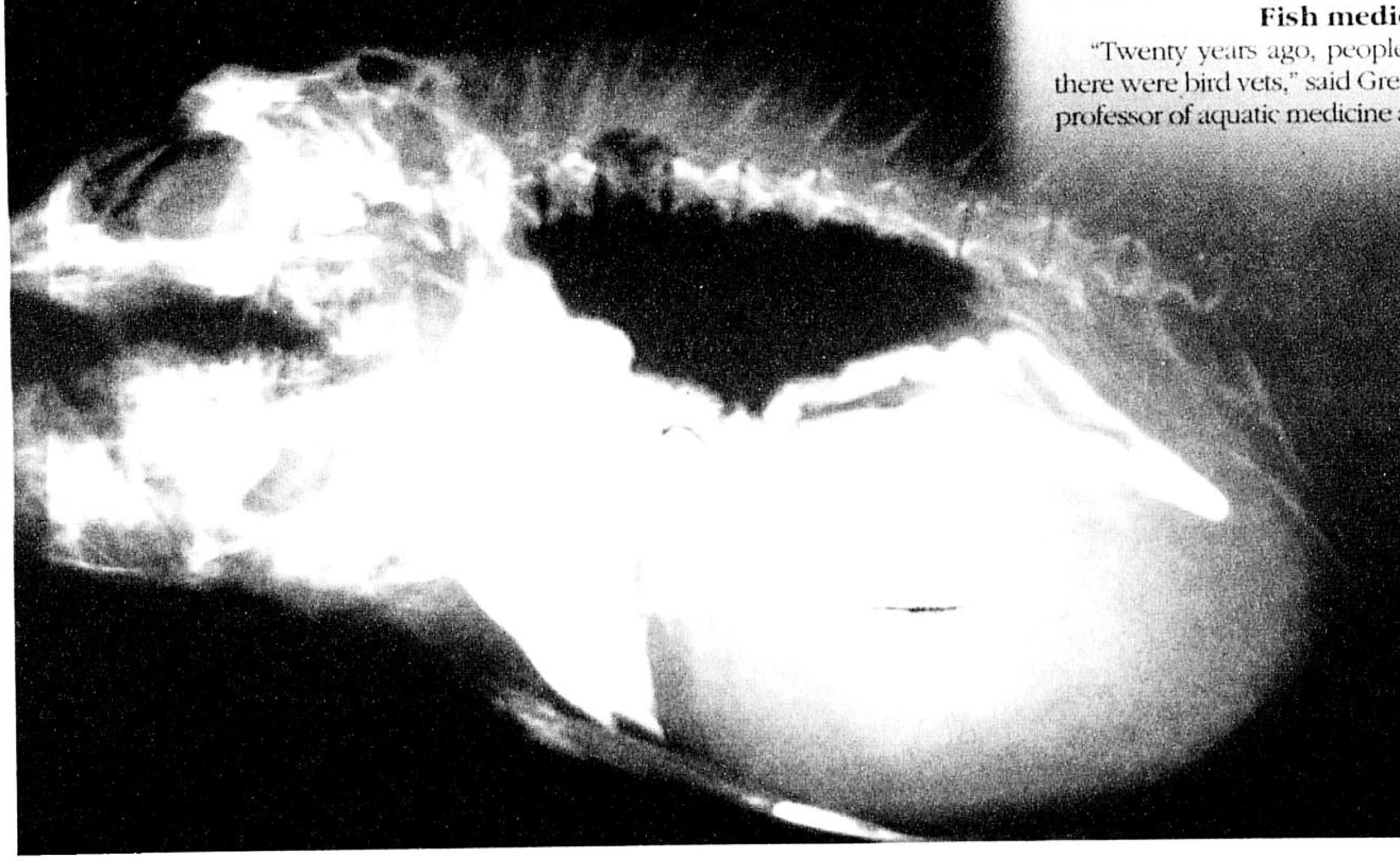
"More and more people are putting in ponds, collecting fish," she said. "People get very, very attached to their fish."

Fish medicine, or aquatic veterinary medicine, once meant just treating marine mammals—seals, dolphins and whales—at theme parks. But over the past 20 years, the science has widened its reach to include the diagnosis and treatment of fish.

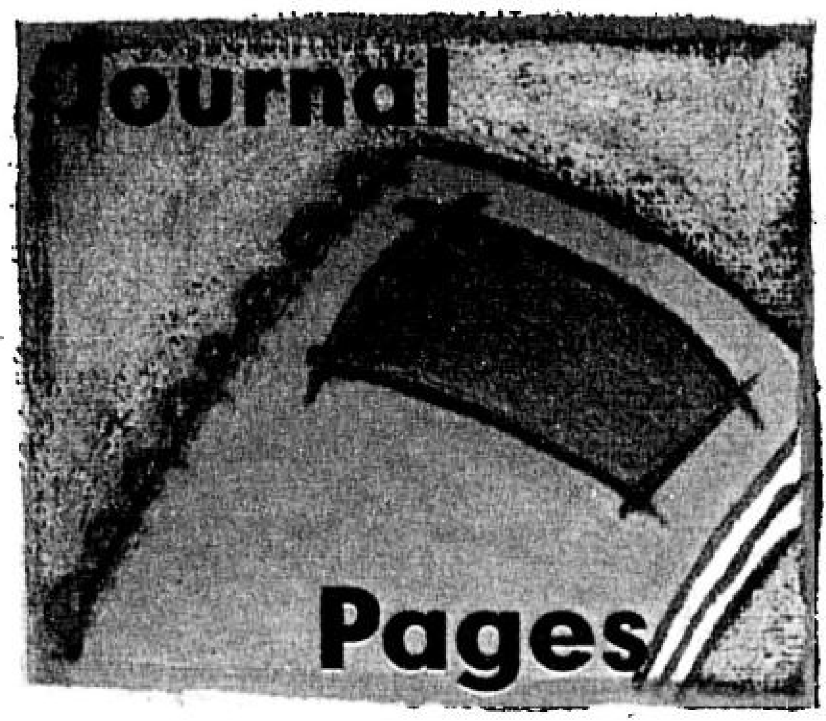
Fish medicine

"Twenty years ago, people thought it was weird there were bird vets," said Greg Lewbart, an associate professor of aquatic medicine at North Carolina State

The Fish/p.14

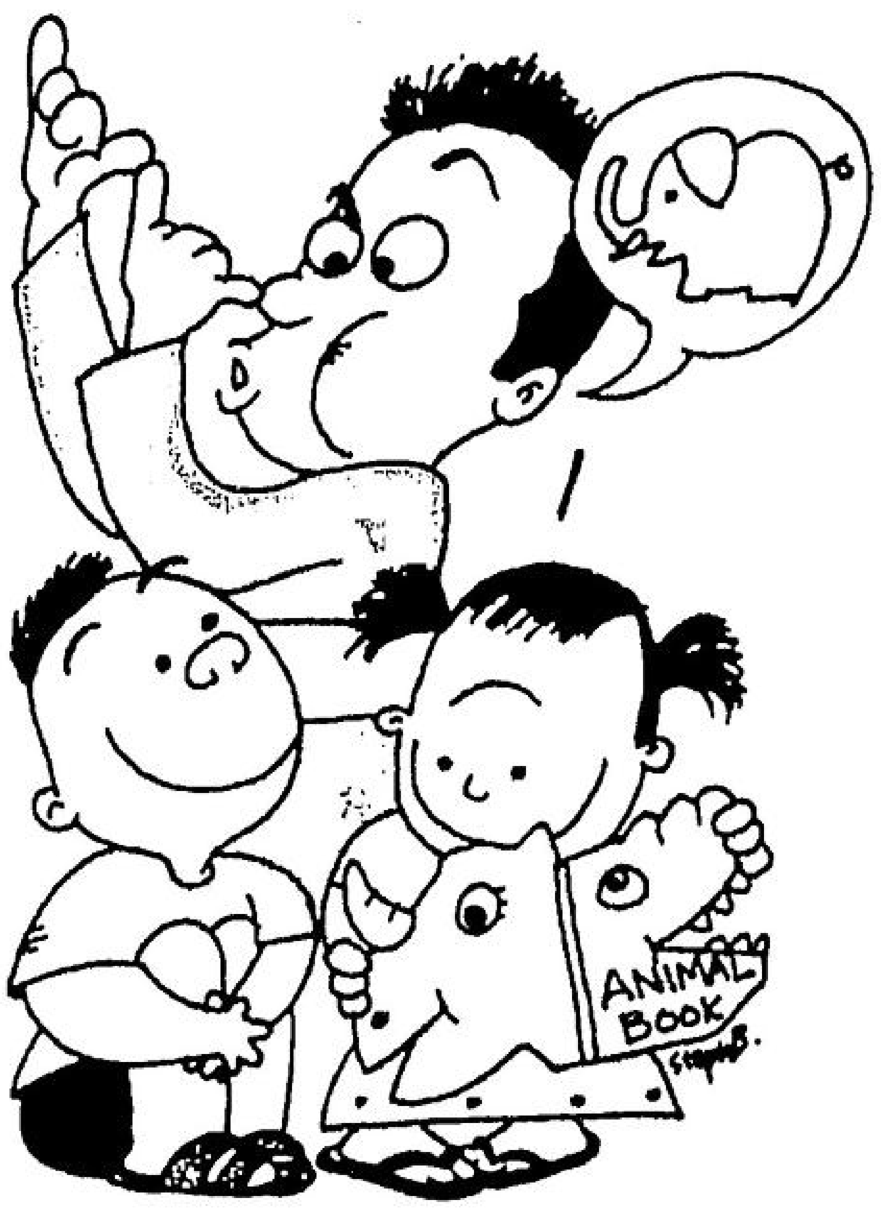


ER, IS THIS LUNCH? Nope. This black sea bass might not end up on your plate. It's X-ray shows the one-pound tumor it had in its stomach prior to surgery. Fish medicine, or aquatic veterinary medicine, once meant treating marine mammals, seals, dolphins and whales, at places like SeaWorld. But over the past 20 years, the science has widened its reach to include finding out what the fish are sick of and treating them. *AP*



The Summer Teacher

BY MONICA LLAMAS, 13, QUEZON CITY



SUMMER is about to end. No time to lose! Got to have as much fun as one can.

But then, what happens if your *lola* asks you to spend the rest of the summer with her in the province and you can't say no? Super bummer!

This is exactly what happened to a boy named Paolo. He loves his *lola*. But going away to Ilocos was not his idea of wrapping up a fun summer. He would be away from the malls and his friends.

Interestingly, this dilemma was solved pretty quickly in a very surprising way. One day as he was sadly sitting on the pavement outside his *lola's* house, a kid walked over holding up a picture book on animals.

The little boy had the very same book Paolo had when he was 7 years old. He started asking Paolo about the book and since Paolo had loads of time on his hands, he decided to indulge the curious kid. It was an old favorite anyway, quite easy to explain. And so they had a fun storytelling time.

The next day, the very same kid came up again, this time with a friend. He asked Paolo to tell his friend about the book. At first, it felt funny but their curiosity and eagerness got the better of him.

That's when it hit him! These kids were interested in what he had to say about the books and he enjoyed teaching them what he knew. Soon, his popularity as a storyteller grew and more kids came up for impromptu teaching lessons. He even moved to his *lola's* shaded backyard to accommodate the growing number of little kids anxious to hear new stories of animals and folklore!

The tempo of his vacation changed incredibly! Suddenly, he was bustling about preparing story lists and snacks of *pan de sal* and Royal Tru-Orange for his "students." While summer school ordinarily brought shivers up his spine, this kind of school was definitely great fun! And he made a big difference in these kids who hung upon his every word. Paolo was making their summer really educational and enjoyable! And they made his a whole lot more meaningful too!

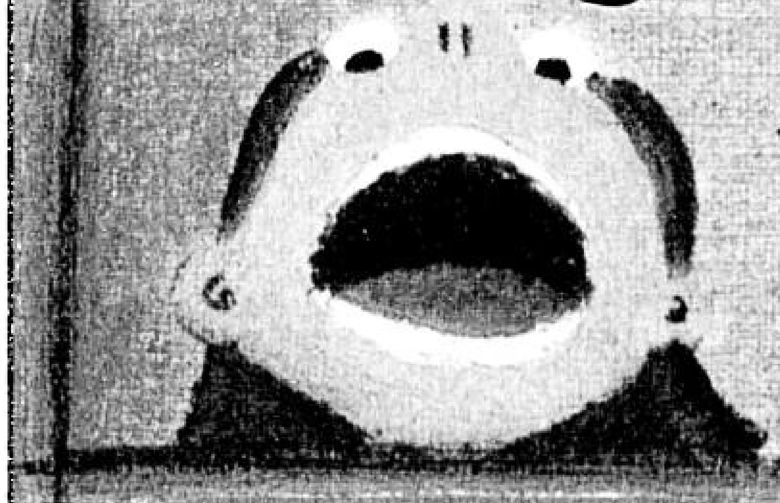
That was last summer vacation. And this summer he fully intends to do it all over again. Two of his *barkada*, John Paul and Dennis, are even going with him back to Ilocos. Needless to say, his *lola*, who looks forward to his summer visits, was thrilled at the news. And they're pretty excited. Dennis plans to bring his old elementary school books. And they're even setting up the Playstation for some Dance Revo too!

Now that's putting a positive spin on wrapping up summer vacation fun! Why don't you try it out! You don't have to go back to the province to do some summer school teaching of your own. Even the neighborhood barangay park can be a good venue. Gather a group of buddies and organize summer teachings. It's a school of a summer kind. Have fun!

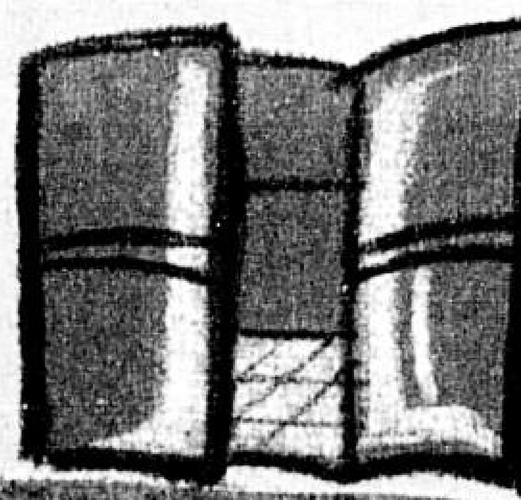
Sound Familiar?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



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DEAR Editor,

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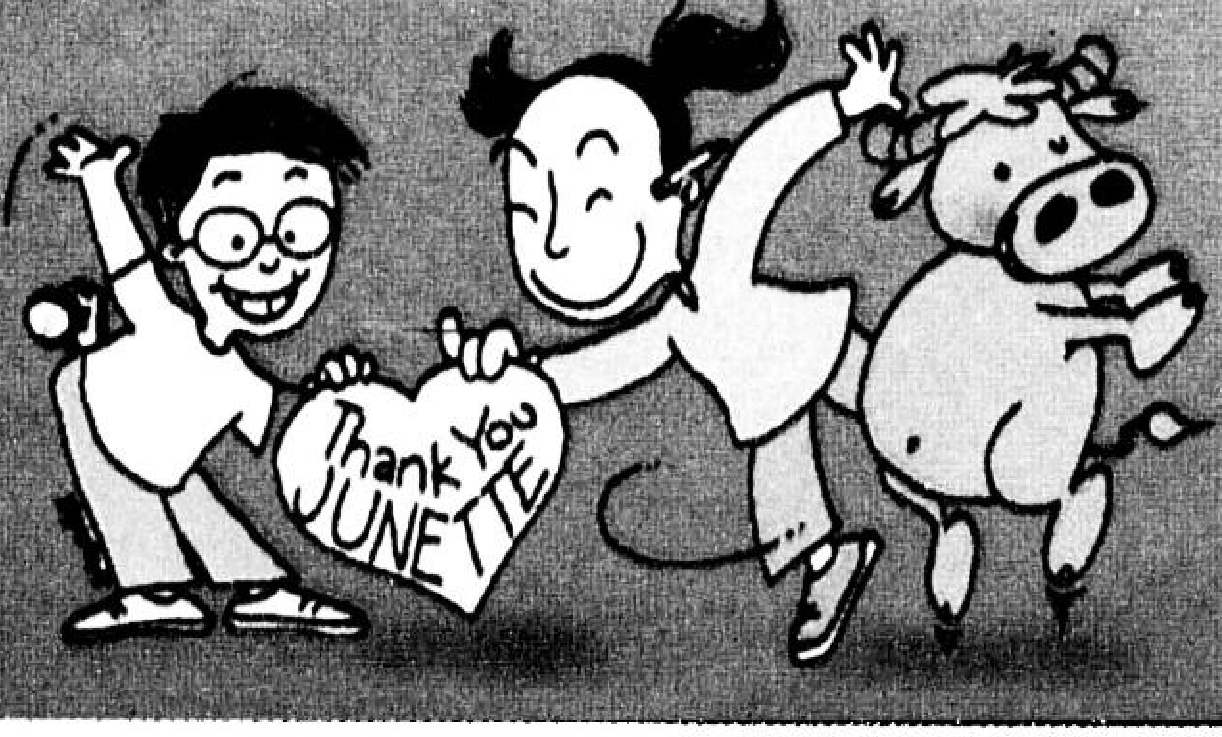

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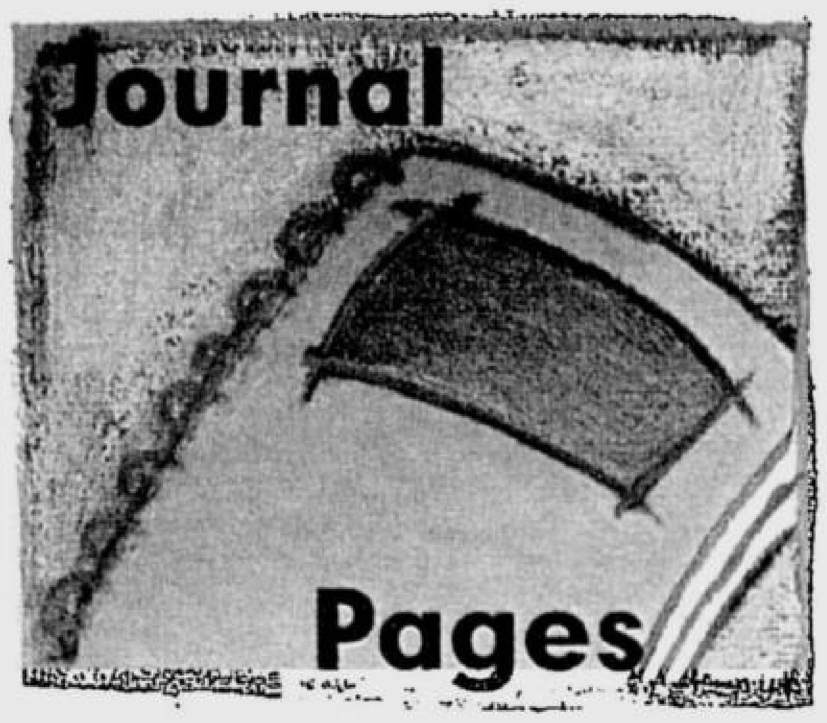

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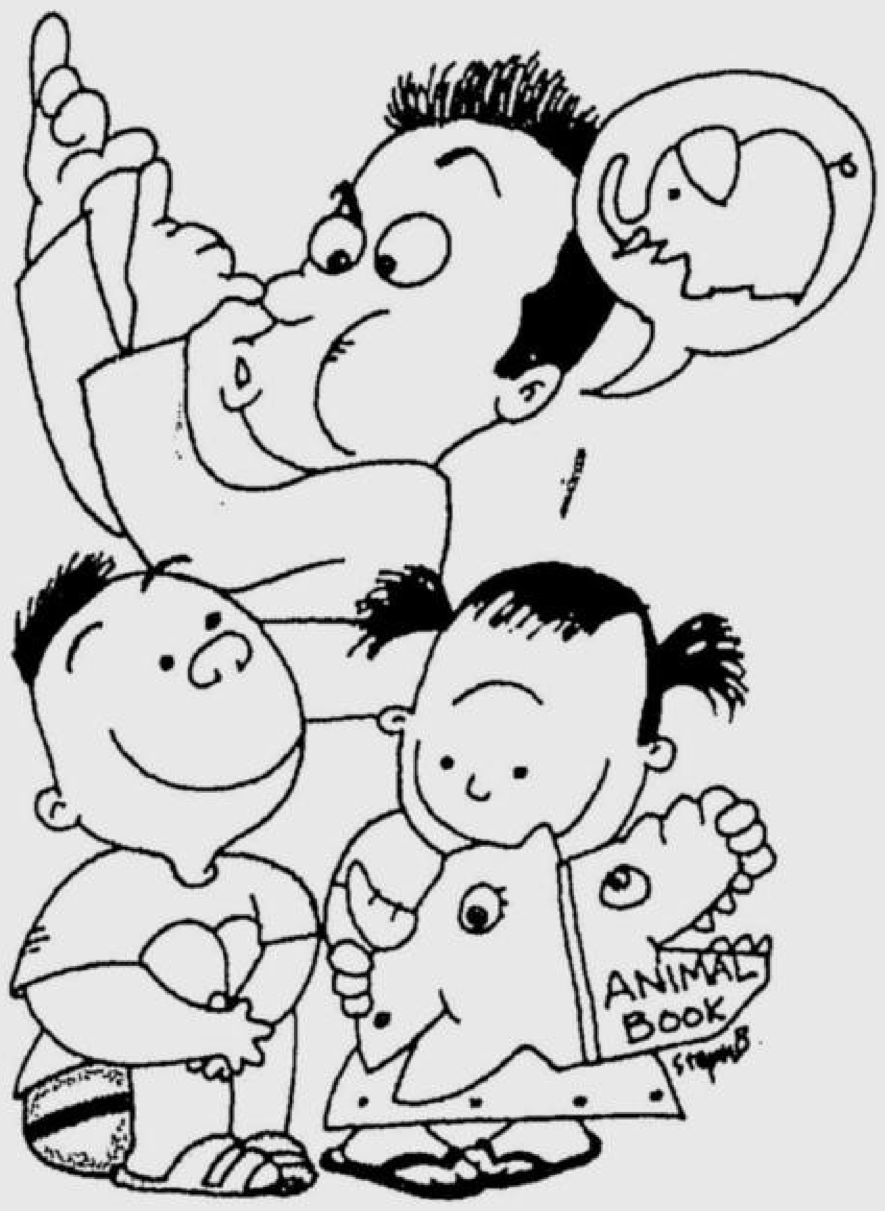

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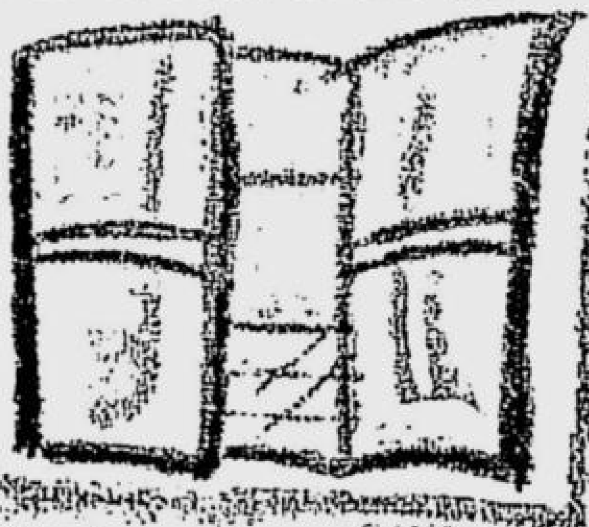

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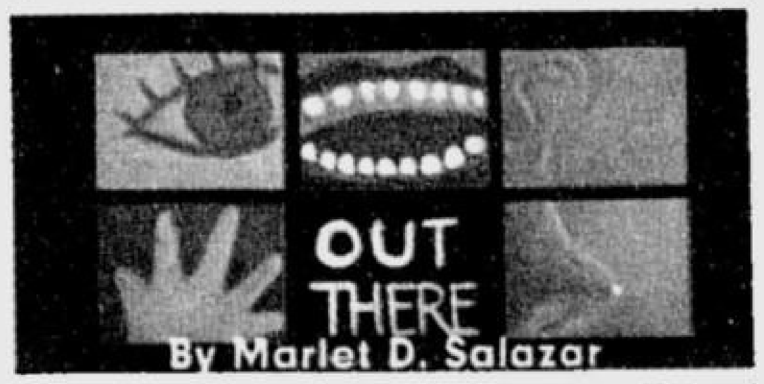

By Marlet D. Salazar

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Workshops

FREE ART WORKSHOP. Kids 7-11 years old are invited to join Faber Castell's free art workshop today at 12 nn. Well-known artists and art educators, Fernando Sena, Deon Nacario and To Austria will be conducting the workshop at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City. For inquiries call up 361-7391 or 361-7395 to 96.

FUN AT HELLO KITTY CAFÉ. Create your own Hello Kitty bags, greeting cards, picture frames, pencil cases, and even flower pots at the Hello Kitty Café 3F of SM Megamall, Building B from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Workshops are held every day for the summer and only on Saturdays and Sundays for the rest of the year. For inquiries call 726-9076 local 721 or visit the SM Megamall Hello Kitty Café right next to Gift Gate.

Stuff

BACK-TO-SCHOOL CATALOGUE. National Book Store helps ease those school shopping hassles with the "Back-to-School, Back to National Book Store Catalogue." The NBS catalogue features a wide range of products from classic to reference books, textbooks, paper supplies, arts and technical materials, and other school accessories and equipment. The catalogues are free and available at all National Book Store branches nationwide. To order an item from the catalogue, just call 533-8808 everyday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Customers may order products from May 1 until June 30, 2001.

Activities

BOOK SALE! Adarna House is currently having a Back-to-School sale. Get your favorite children's books at a much lower price. Hurry, the sale is until June 8 only. Adarna House is located at 63-A Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City. For more details, contact Ms Hannah Gomez at 372-3548 to 49 or you can also send an email to sales@adarna.com.ph

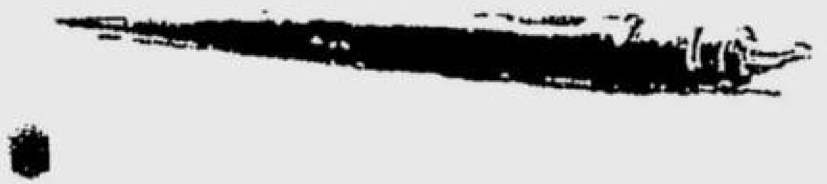
On TV

5 & UP. Tune in to "5 and Up" tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. and join young reporters Chiyomi Rances and Kai de Veyra as they tour Hong Kong. Learn about its history, culture, customs and traditions, the sights and of course, food! Don't miss it!

Cable Picks

COWARDLY DOG. Witness the adventures of "Courage the Cowardly Dog" on Cartoon Network today at 12 nn. In today's episode "Curse of Shirley," Shirley returns to the Farmhouse disguised as a beggar. The Farmer gets a curse when he slams the door on Shirley. What will happen to the Farmer? Find out on "Courage the Cowardly Dog" at 12 nn.

GREEN DAY! Cartoon Network celebrates World Environment Day with a two-hour special focusing on the greenest cartoons. Cartoon Network has enlisted the services of legendary "greenies" Mas, Touche Turtle, Wally Gator, Fish Police, Buttercup, the GangGreen Gang, Mojo Jojo and a lot more! Plus environmental Captain Planet will give his messages during the program. Tune in to Cartoon Network on June 5 at 5:30 p.m.



This is used to kill whale sharks.

This can be used to save them.

WWF

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

INQUIRER

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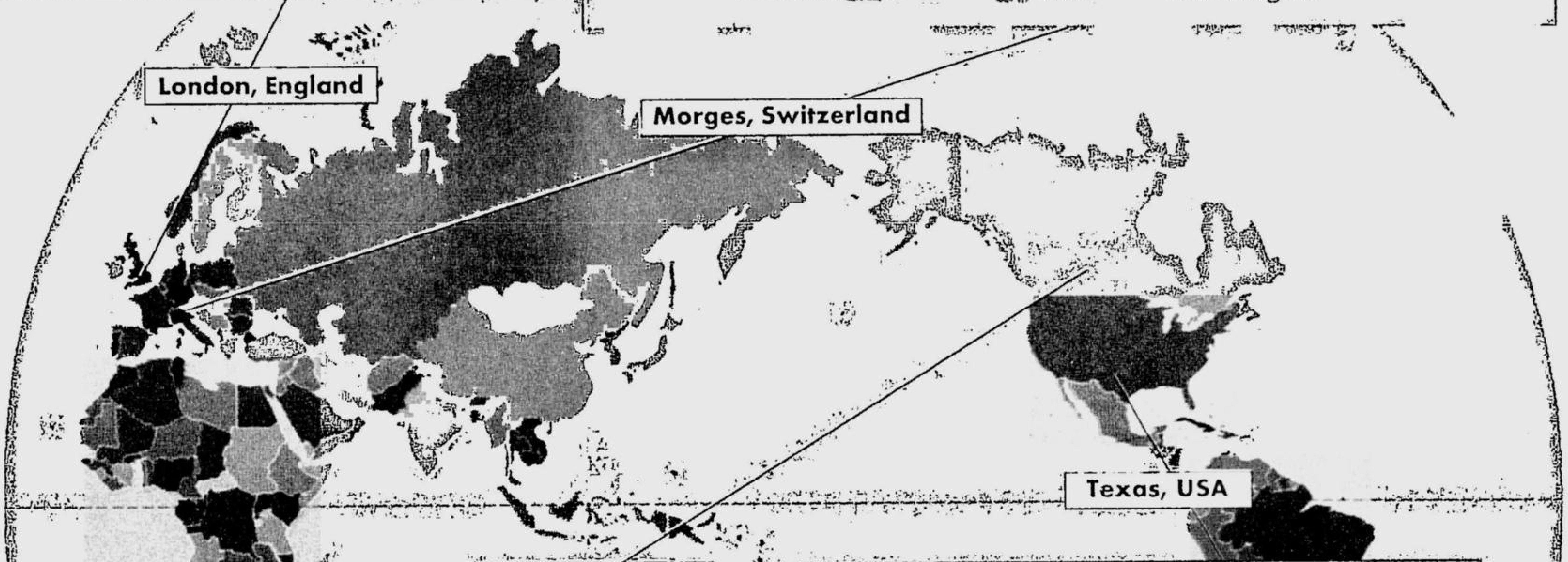
Pricey harmonica

WHEW! This harmonica is very old but holds a very big sentimental value—especially for fans of the popular '60s band "Beatles." A bidder paid a whopping £2,400 or roughly P170,000 for it in an auction. The harmonica formerly belonged to Beatles member John Lennon. He eventually gave the harmonica to a close friend for his girlfriend, Ellen, who was ill at the time. Lennon signed the inside lid of the box, and wrote, "Don't judge me for my goodness or try me for my badness. If you care to judge me then try me as a man." *AP*

WORLD SCOPE

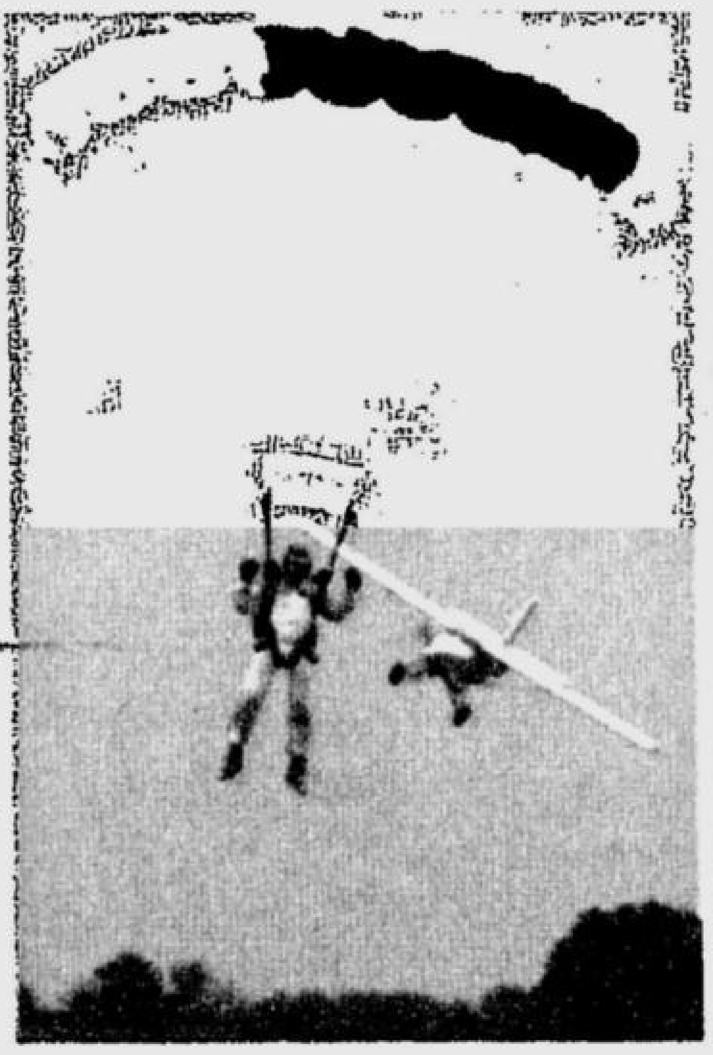
Just don't do this at home

MUSICIANS of the orchestra Bereden Wapens from the Netherlands perform the really difficult task of playing their instruments while riding their bicycles. All this for the 4th International Festival of Military Music Orchestras held last month in western Switzerland. The Military-Music-Morges-Festival had participants of military fanfare groups from Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United States, Romania and France. Hmm, maybe some of them played music underwater or something. *AP*



Peep-peep! It's gosling season

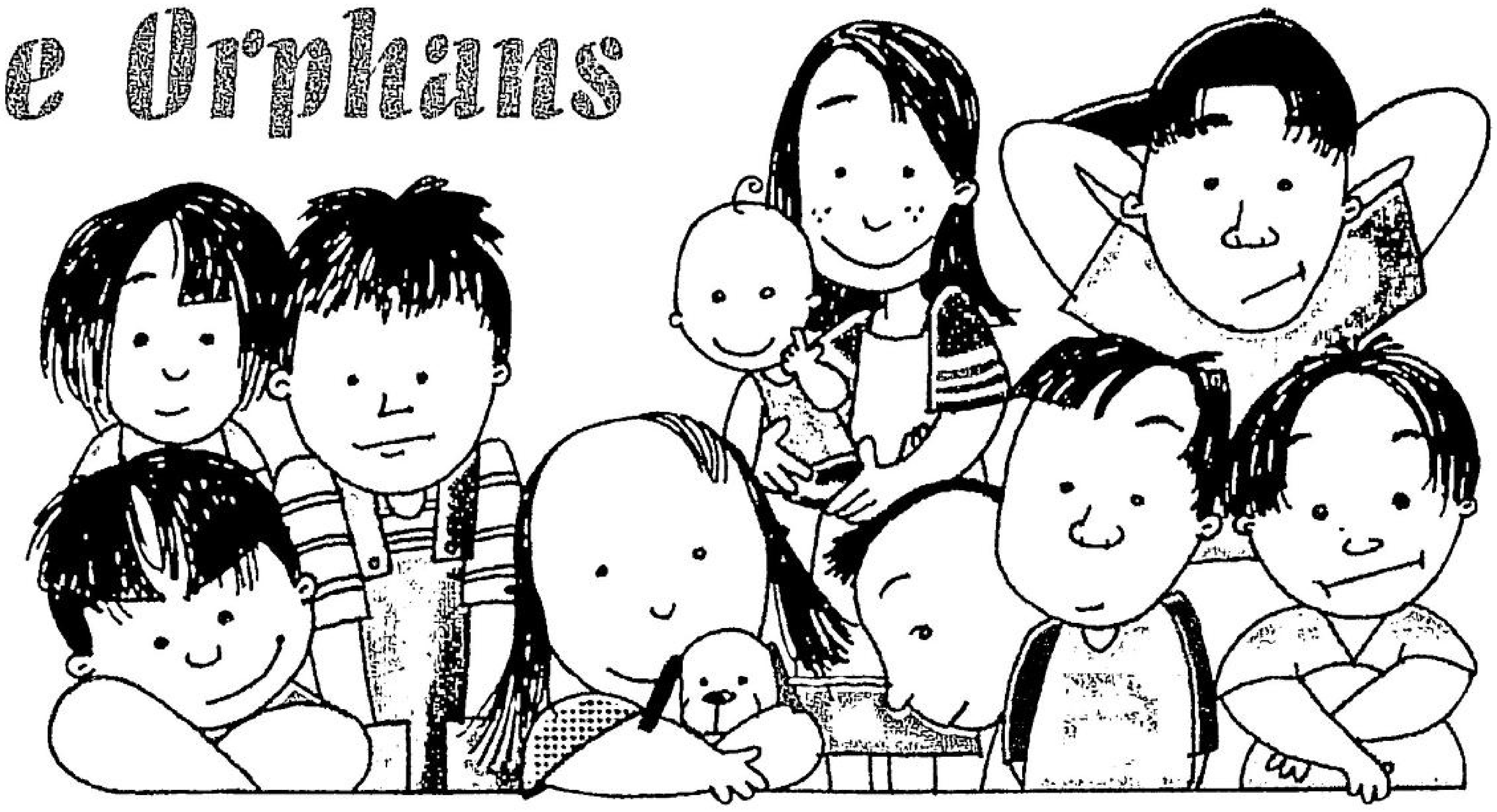
A MOTHER goose looks over her first gosling to hatch. In Canada, other mommy geese are waiting for that familiar peep-peep sound from their eggs to greet their new babies "happy birthday!" This picture was taken from a 17th story balcony in Oakville, Ontario. *AP*



Aaaa!.. Aaaa!... Aaaa!...

CAN you believe it? This man from the United States jumped from an airplane and parachuted to the ground 500 times—all in 24 hours! Commercial airline pilot Mike Zang now hold's the world's marathon skydiving world record. Let's hope he doesn't practice his hobby while working on the job. Yikes! *AP*

Day with the Orphans



By Niranand Kumar
International School Manila

AFTER lots of planning and preparations we finally made the trip to the orphanage. Our planning required us to buy clothes, food and drinks for the orphans. But we all decided that we would earn the money needed instead of just asking our mothers for it.

So we organized a flea market and some games that helped our class raise some money for the presents.

The bus ride to the orphanage took only half an hour but we had a lot of fun. We told each other jokes about Erap and some other jokes and shared our food.

We went on two buses. Some parents also joined us on the trip.

To my surprise the place was nothing like what I had imagine. I had thought that the orphanage would be a rusty old building with nothing good at all but it turned out to be a beautiful building. We were so wrong!

We met the orphans as we were entering the building. Their names were called out as they came forward. These children were a happy looking bunch. The older orphans interacted with the students by playing and talking to them. Smaller kids who were not in the nursery were shy and a little hard to cooperate with.

I was assigned to a 2-year-old boy named Edwin. He was chubby and cute and was fun to be with.

Day/p.11

Ang project ni Totoy tinapos ng Li'l Hands ni Tatay.

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Reviews by Kids

TELEVISION

More Than Charmed

"Charmed"
Channel 23

BY NICOLE ABUNDO,
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MANILA

I WAS startled by the way some people feel about the "Harry Potter" books, and TV programs like "Charmed," "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer," and "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch." I know that we are all entitled to our own ideas and opinions about things, but I just hope we all become open enough to know that different people look at different things in different ways.

For example, I'd like to tell you about "Charmed," my favorite program.

First of all, I'll explain the magic, since that is what some readers seem to be bothered about with the Harry Potter series. Like Harry, the Halliwell sisters are also witches. But this is not genuine witchcraft. It's only a TV show and the story comes from the imagination of the show's talented writers.

"Charmed" is *fiction*, meaning it is not real. That doesn't really matter much to me since that isn't the most important aspect of the show; it is only the most obvious. The magic to me is just a big secret in their lives, one that they can never get rid of and they have to learn how to live with it. That's all it is. The spells and their powers are just added details.

> "It reminds me that there is something out there. That I should give everything a chance and that anything is possible"

If you watch the first episode and one of the most recent ones, immediately you notice a big difference. The three sisters, Prue, Piper and Phoebe Halliwell become closer to each other as time goes by. Their magic gives them something else that they have in common. They learn to work together as a team when they vanquish demons, warlocks, or other evil beings.

I don't think the magical fighting scenes promote violence, as many people say. How can protecting goodness be wrong? The three girls, Shannen Doherty, Holly Marie Combs, and Alyssa Milano, and the writers' magical touch create such a spellbinding effect, that I easily relate to the three characters.

I have two younger sisters, so that makes me somebody like Prue. Sometimes I feel exactly like her. Her words could be mine, so then I know that I'm not the only one who feels that way, I know I'm not alone.

I'm not saying that I believe in demons and witches and magical things like that. All I'm saying is that if someone does, I totally respect that. Everyone has to have something or someone to believe in at one point or another in their lives.

We all believed in Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, the Easter Bunny, mermaids, fairies, unicorns, and countless other make-believe things like that. Why didn't anyone tell us it was wrong then? Why didn't they say it wasn't real and why didn't they stop us from having something to look forward to? Why didn't they tell us to stop believing and to just "grow-up"? Why?

"Charmed" is something I enjoy. It gives me something to look forward to every Monday night. If I'm feeling down, I remind myself about "Charmed," or pop a tape into the VCR, and suddenly my spirits are lifted. It reminds me that there is something out there. That I should give everything a chance and that anything is possible. It reminds me of my hopes and my dreams. That's what it means to me. That's how important it is to some of us fans.

I've said enough for now. I hope that I got my message across and that people learn to look at things at different ways and how other people look at it before forming an opinion, an opinion that could influence others.

***Nicole**, 13, studies at International School Manila.*

Election Thoughts

PART
VOTE
BRENDA

AN ESSAY

BY SARA SOLER ALMARIO
ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE

WATCHING programs about the recent elections and watching the candidates campaign has got me thinking. It has awakened me to the fact that many politicians give us empty promises. I'm afraid that some—if not most—of them will forget their words once they win.

I know I may not know much about politics. I'm only 13 years old. And maybe I haven't been taking these things seriously before. But I now know that my very future and even my education is on the line every time new leaders are elected into office.

I'm very proud that my school, St. Benedict College, was active during Edsa 2. I remember that our teachers and our principal came there with our school banner. I know that they were there to fight for our rights in education.

I still remember that my teacher was even interviewed by ABS-CBN. She said she was tired of a nation run by a corrupter. Although we teased her after that (she's now very popular in school because of her TV appearance) I think her example opened our eyes to reality.

I think President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is everythi that she promised to be. I kn that some crisis take longer solve. But I also think she h the patience needed to sol these things. She's been a go role model for me and an ins ration to us youth. If ever I the chance, I would like to p sonally thank her for all thes

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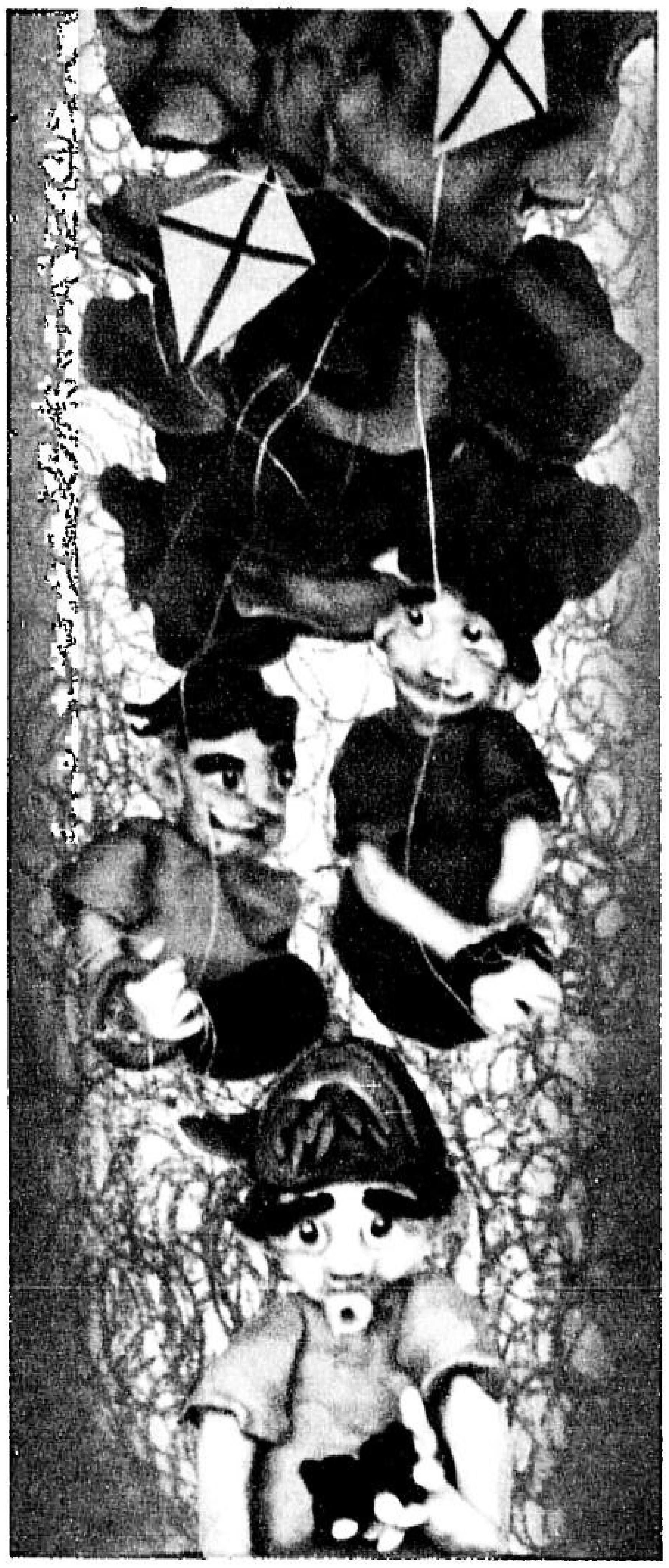
Noon at Ngayon

Kung maari nga lamang ibalik ang noon

NI GENARO R. GOJO CRUZ
GUHIT NI JOSE MIGUEL TEJIDO



Saranggola

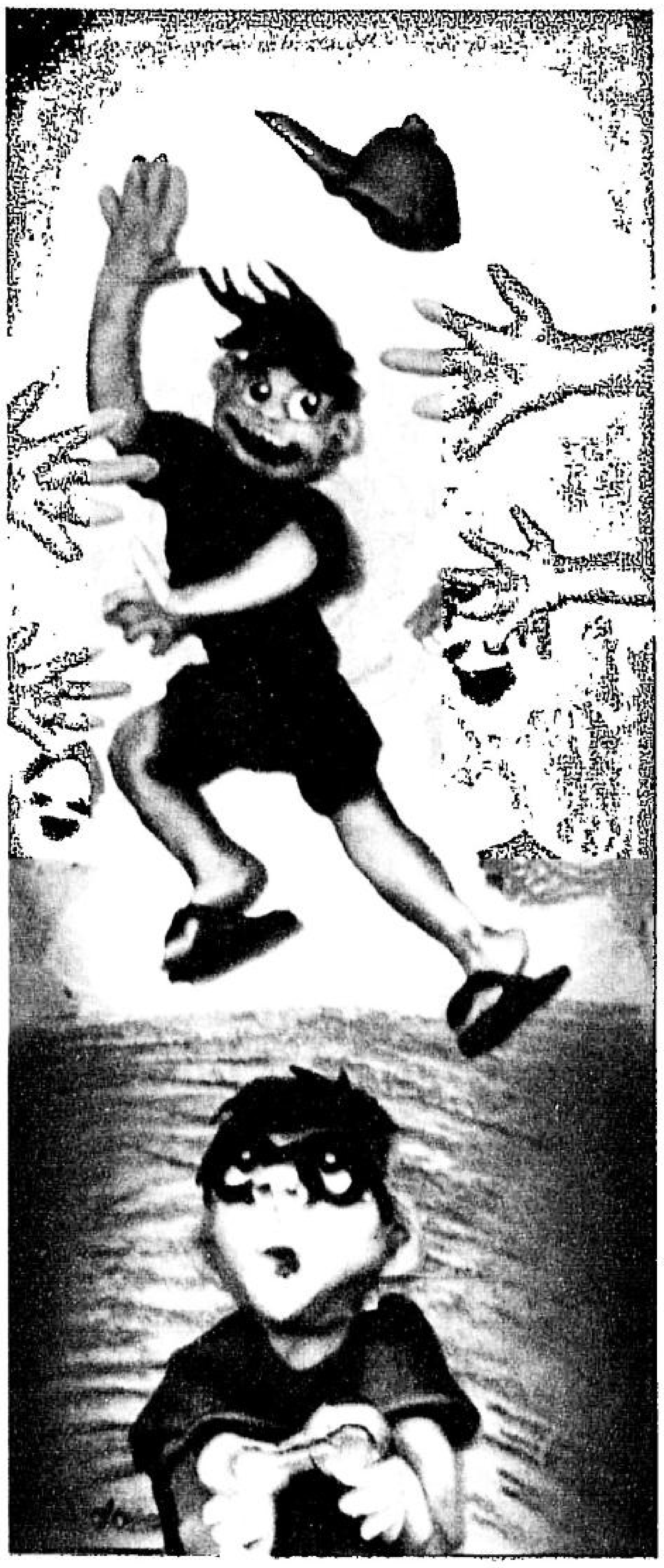
Noon,
kay daling magpalipad
ng saranggola
sa malawak ng bukid
na sagana sa hangin.
Basta't mahaba ang pisi
sisilay ang ngiti sa labi
matapos masilayan
ang saranggolang kapiling
ng mga ulap sa langit.

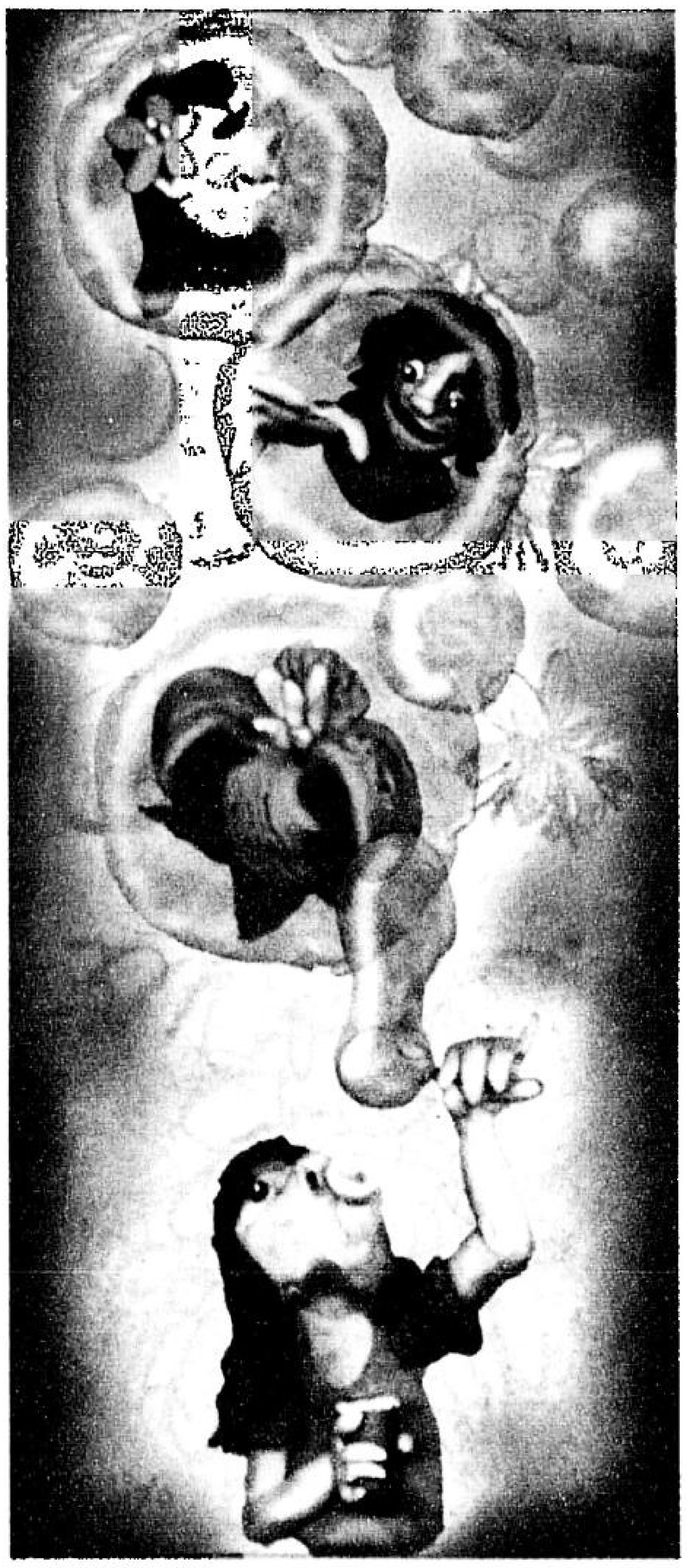
Ngayon,
kay hirap magpalipad
ng saranggola
dahil ang nakatirik sa bukid
ay naglalakihang pabrika.
Ubos na rin ang hangin
na magtatangay
sa makulay
at magarang saranggola.

Patintero

Noon,
kay-inam magpatintero
sa lupang hindi sementado
kahit abutin pa ng dapit-hapon
at balutin ng alikabok
and paang di napapagod.
Uuwing may ngiti sa labi
dahil sa pagkapanalo.

Ngayon,
hindi na mainam maglaro ng patintero
dahil ang lupa ay naging sementado.
Hindi maaaring tulinan ang takbo
dahil baka masugatan
at umuwing tuhod ay puno ng dugo.





Bulang-Lobo

Noon,
Kay daling gumawa ng maliit
at malalaking bulang-lobo
mula sa dahon at bulaklak
ng gumamelang pinitpit ng bato:

Kay-inam pagmasdan
ang mga bulang-lobo
lalo na kung malayo na'y
hindi pa rin pumuputok.

Ngayon,
hindi na madaling gumawa
ng bulang-lobo
dahil wala nang tanim
na gumamela sa bakuran ni Inso.
Ubos na rin ang malinis
na hangin
na magtatangay
sa mga maseselang bulang-lobo.

Punong

Noon,
kay sarap um
sa punong ma
na may mayal
at matitipuno

Ngayon,
wala na ang li
tuod na laman
sa punong ma
na silungan.
Wala na ang n
at matitipuno
sa tuwing hiti
ang punong-

Si ***Genaro*** *ay tag*
mga tulang pam
Junior Inquirer.
Si ***Jomike*** *ay na*
University of S
miyembro ng
Kabataan.

-Mangga

kyat
ngga
ong
g sanga.

im,
g ang natira
iggang madalas

ga luntiang dahon
g sanga na inaakyat
sa bunga
ingga.

-Bulacan. Marami sa
ata niya'y lumabas sa

-aaral ng Fine Arts sa
o. Tomas. Siya ay
Ang Ilustrador ng

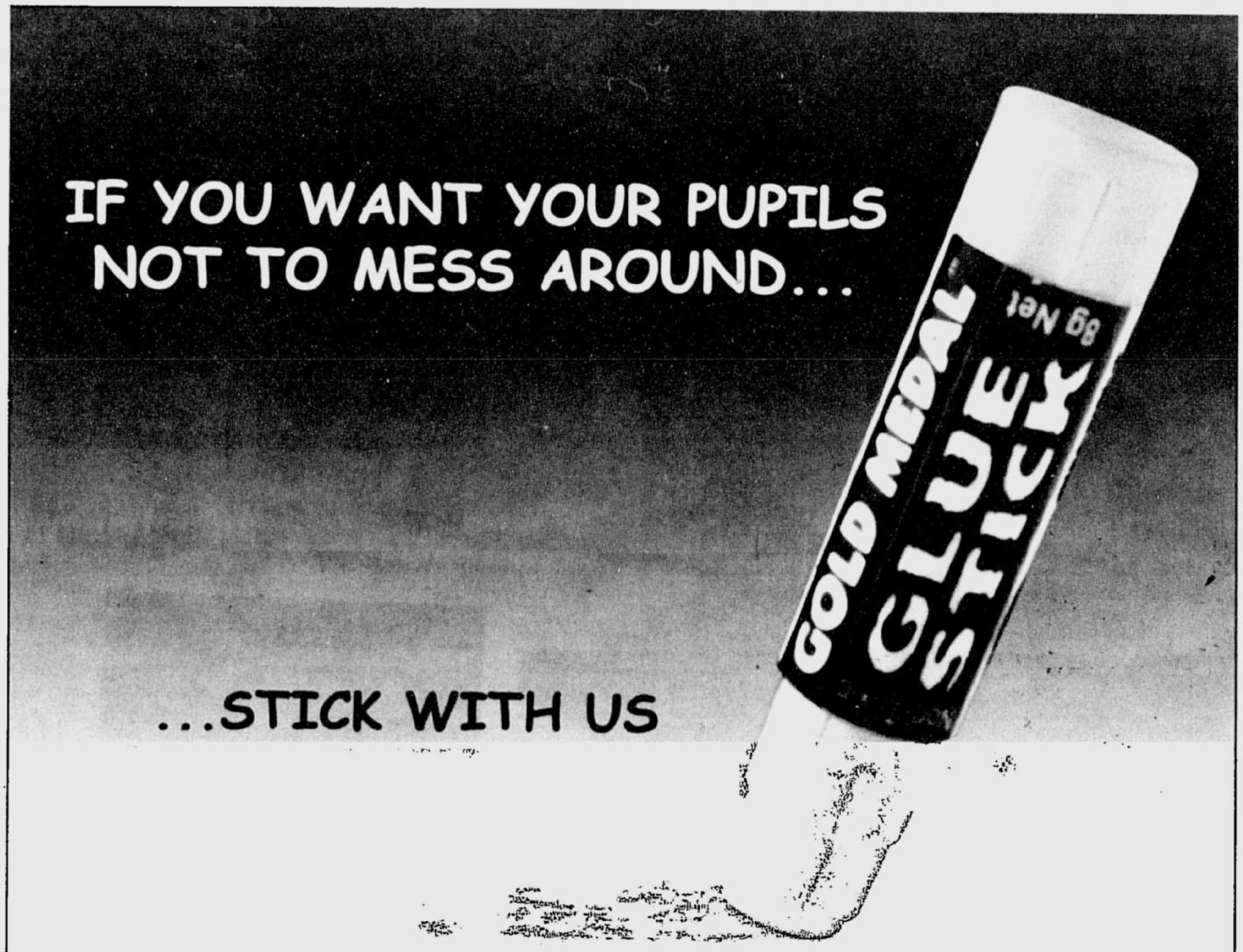
Twins

BY LAIDEE CAMILLE ACACIO

Now here are they
Oh how I used to pray
For brothers. And now twins!
Delightful life again begins
Jose and Jere are their names
Their looks, the habits are the same.

Sometimes their night turns into day
All they want is to go out and play
My twin brothers are our greatest blessing
God gave them to us after all our waiting
Oh! How I've loved them from the start
I promise that we'll never part.

***Laidee** lives in San Francisco del Monte in Quezon, City.*



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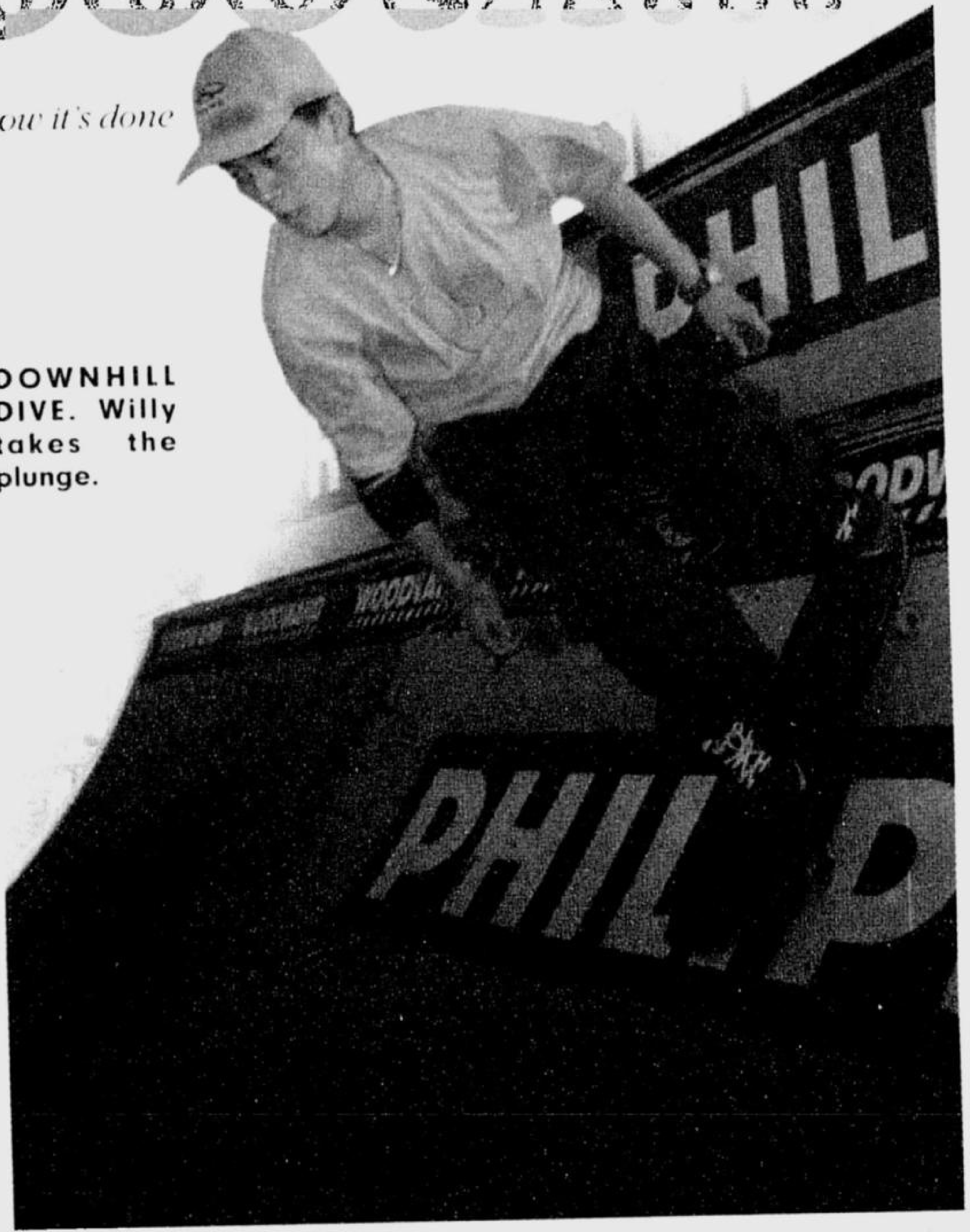
Smoooooooth!!!

Fil-Am Skateboarding Champ Willy Santos shows Pinoy X-gamers how it's done

By Christine C. Rivero



DOWNHILL DIVE. Willy takes the plunge.

NOTHING stops 25-year-old Willy Santos when he's on his skateboard. Not a metal rail threatening to get in his way. Sideways or diagonal, he just glides over like it wasn't even there.

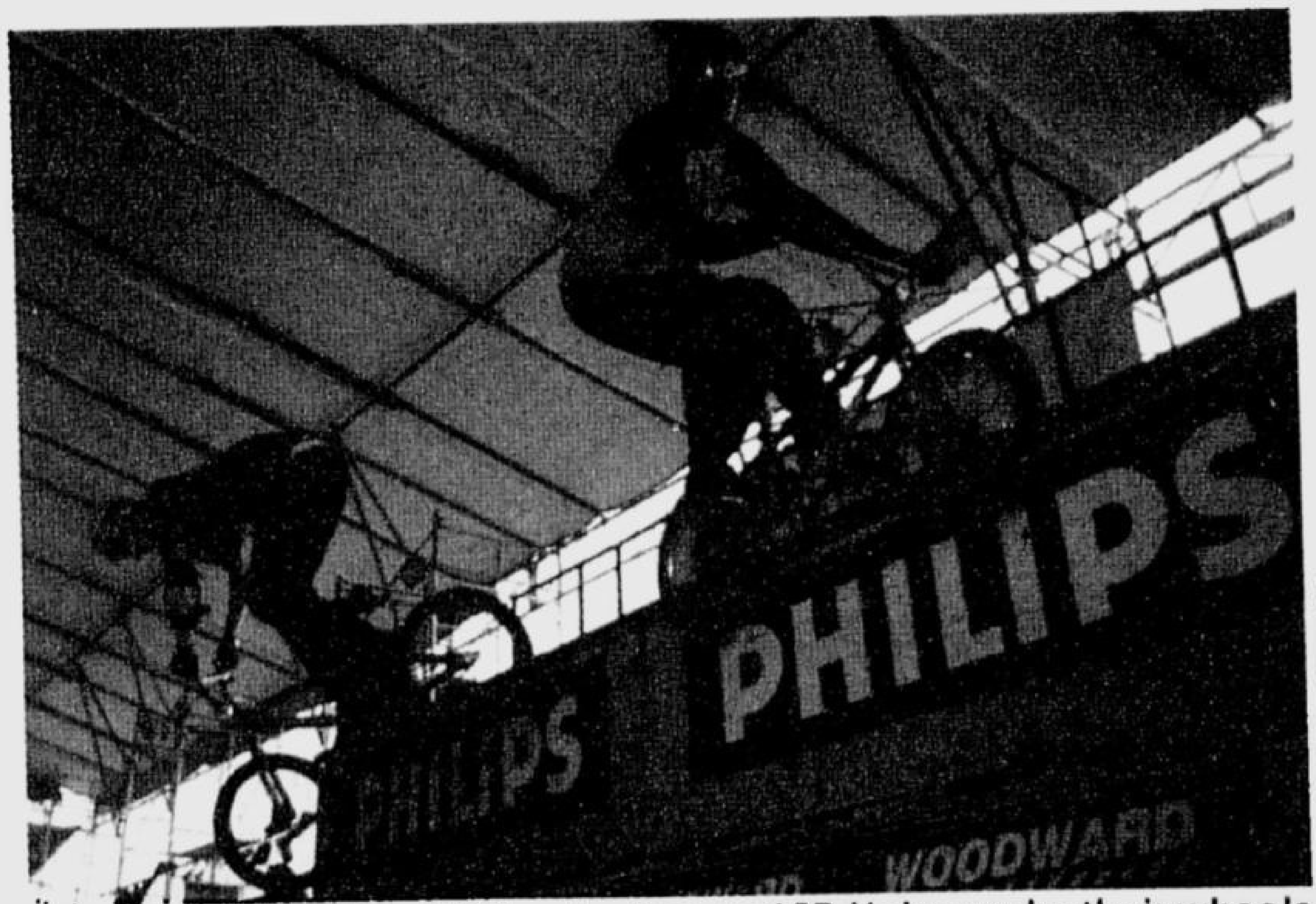
A tall wall curved like a tidal wave doesn't bother him either. He'll either skate over that or skim the edge, launching himself into the air with a spin or amazing hold-your-breath-gravity-defying backflip. The skateboard never leaves his feet and, no, it's not glued there. When Willy is on his board, he's simply riding with the speed of the wind.

Both on-lookers and contestants at the Philips X-rage Extreme Sports and Music Event were treated to Willy's brand of skateboarding magic. Willy, a professional skateboarding athlete based in the United States, was both a guest and judge of the skateboarding competition at the event held on May 18-20 at The Fort Summer Camp in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. Other extreme sports champs—or X-gamers as these guys are sometimes called—from the US were also invited to judge competitions in In-Line Skating and BMX bike stunts, but the crowd cheered loudest for fellow Pinoy, Willy.

A Pro at 16

"I started skateboarding with a whole bunch of my friends around the neighborhood...it was such a fun thing to do. I was about 11 or 12 years old and then I've been skateboarding ever since," says Willy who was born in the former Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City here in the Philippines. He grew up in the States, though, and that's where he learned to skateboard.

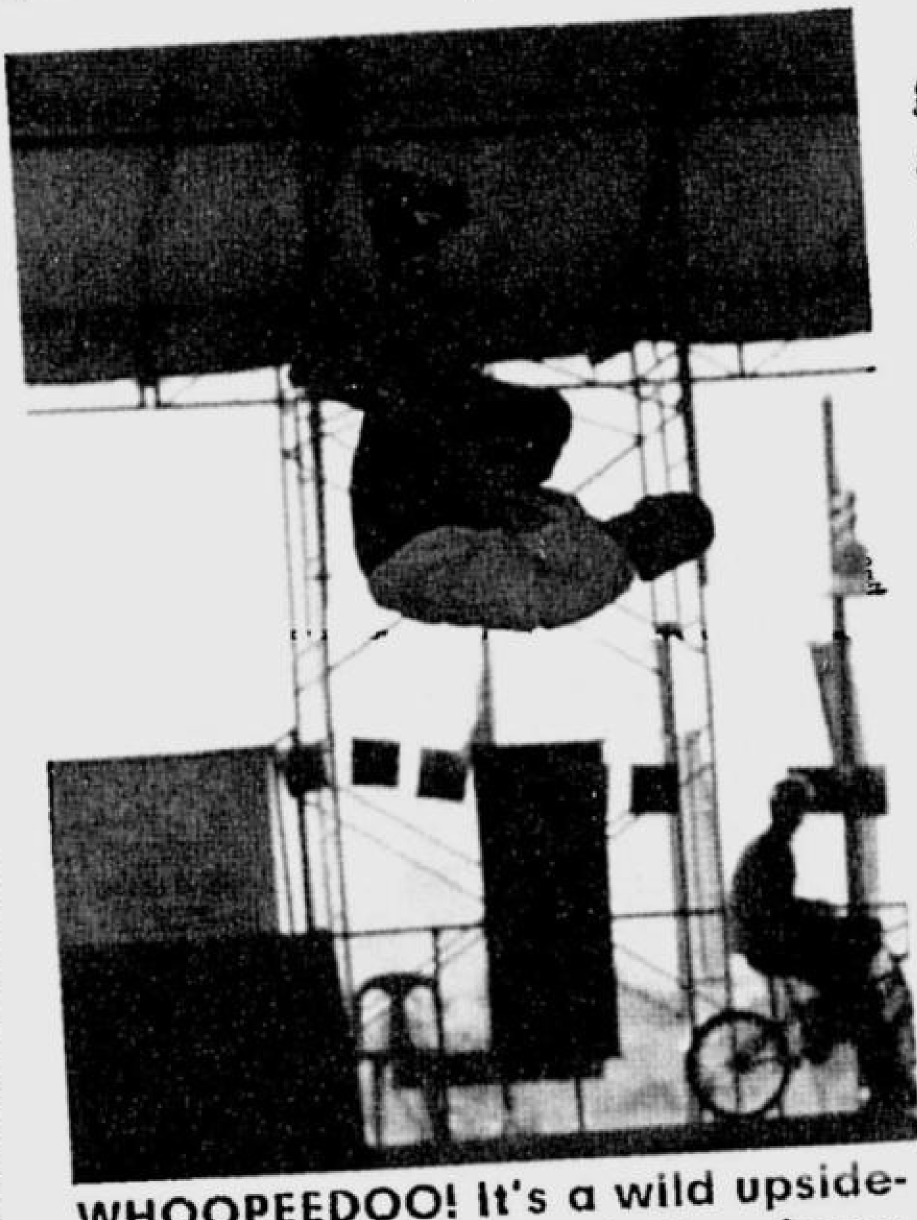
Now, Willy had a knack for skateboarding from the start and he often won in the competitions he joined. Sponsors noticed him and Willy became a professional athlete at the age of 16.



BMX BROTHERS. Pro-BMXers Joshua and JD Heino make their wheels airborne.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Aside from flying off walls and winning trophies, Willy also has his own business in San Diego, California, where he lives. "I own a skateboard and barbershop out there called Willy's Workshop. So you can get a haircut and buy skateboard products at the same time."



WHOOPEEDOO! It's a wild upside-down world for in-line skating champ Zack "Webby" Murphy.

Sometimes, Willy admits, he gets scared when he does his skateboarding tricks but, he says, "it's just a matter of getting over it after the first try then you just sort of get used to it."

Here's his message to skateboarders here in the Philippines. "Stand strong. Skate with a whole bunch of your friends. Have fun. God bless!"

Check out Willy's website, www.willysantos.com, for Willy's very own skateboarding tips and trivia.

Day with the Orphans

(from page 5)

I fed him and carried him around. I think he liked the food the best because he took his time and ate slowly. He seemed to enjoy this as much as I would if I had a Playstation. He specially enjoyed the burger and juice I fed him.

The best thing that I think I did to help the orphan is that at least for an hour and a half I gave him as much attention that I would have gotten if I were at home. After our visit it was very hard to leave them because we were having so much fun and in that much time we bonded a lot.

What I thought would be a real drag and the worst field trip, turned out to be the best excursion I have ever been on because it made me feel good to help other people, especially children that are my age and younger. In this trip I kept on feeling how lucky I am and how hard it must be to live with no parents to care for them. If I were to do it again I would certainly take the opportunity as many times as possible.

But I have to admit that they are not as lucky as we are and don't have the same facilities that we do. Every day life is very hard for them not like our easy and comfortable life. Even with the hardship that they have to go through they seemed happy and joyful. Looking at them I felt guilty about making a fuss over small things. Compared to them I have a lot and I should be grateful for it. I am lucky and looking at the children at the orphanage, I felt that I should try and help those who are not as lucky as me. Therefore I also urge every other fortunate person like me to help these children in any way they can.

__Nir__ is 10 years old. His favorite subjects are science and math, and his hobbies are judo and table tennis. He has lived in the Philippines for six and a half years. He says that in the years that "I have studied in ISM, Ms Rivelo is one of the best teachers I've had."

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THE X-FILE

Fearless Felicia Bernardino feels right at home in the creepy-crawly world of "The Unexplained"

BY CHRISTINE C. RIVERO

THERE were only two sentences on 11-year-old Felicia Bernardino's nomination form, but they were enough to grab our attention.

"I am very interested in the paranormal and the unexplained" read her first sentence. It was followed by "I'm like a cryptozoologist."

Now, we wondered, what in the world could that be?

It turns out, the answer is somewhat...out of this world.

"Cryptozoologists are scientists who study the unexplained," Felicia informed us when we finally met her, "and I'm very interested in the things the world hasn't discovered or understood yet "

She wants to meet a ghost!

It all began, says Felicia, a fifth-grader at St. Paul College in Pasig, after she watched a scary movie when she was around 9 or 10 years old.

Kids'r'rrific

"I think it was called 'Arachnid,'" she relates, "suddenly I got interested in things that were strange. I started to read about the paranormal." She started reading about aliens. wondrous places and weird occurrences.

Felicia then describes fantastic creatures she's read about, like the desert-dwelling giant Mongolian Death Worm or the werewolf-like Chupacabras of Puerto Rico, a creature that supposedly steals and eats farm animals. She also told us about her favorite mysterious creature—the Yowie.

"It's like an Abominable Snowman but it's found in Australia," she explains, "it emits a smell that's so stinky, like skunks and rotten eggs. . .it's so scary but few people say they've seen it. I want to find out more about it."

If these creatures were real, some kids would probably freak out at the thought of meeting any of them face to face. Not Felicia. "I'm not scared of most things," she says and when we ask her if she'd like to meet a ghost too, she exclaims, "Yeah, I do!"

"I think ghosts are cool," Felicia adds. "When you see something scary, you can just think that it's cool and incredible then you won't be scared anymore."

It's out there

"I also want to find out the mystery of the Turin Shroud," says Felicia, referring to a strip of ancient cloth found in the city of Turin in Italy.

Some people say the cloth bears the image of Jesus Christ "and some think it's (the inventor) Leonardo da Vinci," Felicia points out.

"Many people are researching if it's a hoax," she says, "and I want to help."

Kids who study the unexplained, says Felicia, "get to be more aware of the world around them." And maybe, later on, even discover if there is such a thing as a world—or worlds—beyond. Felicia would really, really like that.

Big Word Alert!!!

WE checked the dictionary and sure enough, there is such a thing as a **cryptozoologist**, a scientist who studies if mysterious creatures like the Abominable Snowman are real. It comes from the Greek word *kruptos* which means hidden and "zoology," the science of animals. A cryptozoologist, then, is someone who studies hidden animals.

Now something "**paranormal**" is anything that is beyond normal experience or scientific explanation.

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GREAT MYSTERIES OF THE PAST

FAVORITE BOOKS. Felicia reads up on strange facts and mysteries.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

R U 'RRIFIC!

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

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'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate:

Age:

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

It's a bird. It's a plane. No,
It's Super Yaya!

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

YAYA DEAREST. After the chores, it's quality time with Yaya Olga and Aoie.

YAYA Olga has a problem: she has to clean the house in the shortest possible time. Then, she needs to cook, wash clothes and make sure her charges reach school safe and sound and, yes, on time!

The clock is ticking and *Yaya* Olga gets set with a broom and some rags. *Swrunch-kajung, swish, swash* and *charan*! Yes, ladies and germs, *Yaya* Olga meets the cleaning challenge!

"It's amazing how she cleans the house so fast," says 11-year-old Aoie Lora, one of *Yaya* Olga's charges. "I'd go inside my room to read a book and before I'm even finished with two pages, Yaya Olga would be over and done with the cleaning!"

How on earth does she do that?

"It's easy actually," *Yaya* Olga laughs. "All you need is coordination and a little bit of grace." She thinks for a moment. "Kind of like dancing, only messier."

Yaya/Cook/Tutor

Forty-one-year-old *Yaya* Olga Bucag has been with the Lora family for more than 15 years. This is why she knows the household inside out: from keeping everything spic-and-span to cooking the children's favorite chicken *estofado*.

"Everyone says I am a great cook," she says proudly. "Everytime I would put a dish on the table, the children would taste it and give it a rating of 100 percent!"

What's cool about her job though, is being able to help the children with their homework. And what's even cooler is the fact that *Yaya* Olga is actually a teacher! She finished college before she came to work for the Loras, so this just proves that she knows her stuff.

A kid's best friend

After finishing with the household chores, Yaya Olga has a lot of fun with the kids. They dance around the house to their favorite pop music or simply lie on the bed and read from storybooks to take their imaginations to faraway lands.

Sometimes, when *Yaya* Olga has to go on errand, she does not forget to bring home little surprises for the children.

"I know they love the chicken from McDonald's so I make it a point to give the children this as *pasalubong*," *Yaya* Olga smiles.

Asked if she has any regrets about her job, *Yaya* Olga shakes her head and says, "I love this family. I have seen the kids grow up and that in itself is the reward for me." *Awwwww.* Don't we all just wish for a *yaya* like that?

TEACHER TOO. Yaya Olga helps the kids with their homework.

Photos by MIKE ALQUINTO

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ______________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)________________________;
2)________________________;
3)________________________;
4)________________________;
and
5)________________________.

My nominee lives at________
_______________________.
Give him/her a call at________
______________ or send him/her an e-mail at______________.
By the way, I'm____________
_______________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is
_______________________.
You may call me at
_______________________.

ThinkathoN?
By Boris Barrameda

School Quiz

WHEN you think of "school," you instantly think of subjects and tests (after tuition fee, that is). Well, since the school season is just around the bend, let's do a reverse of sorts with a test whose subject is schools of all types. Can you match each description with the right term in the list at right?

1. A pre-kindergarten school for children between the ages of 3 and 5, staffed wholly or partly by qualified teachers who encourage and supervise educational play rather than simply providing childcare.
2. An educational institution for higher learning that typically includes an undergraduate college and graduate schools in various disciplines, as well as medical and law schools and sometimes other professional schools.
3. A private school affiliated with a church that provides children with a general education as well as religious instruction.
4. A school or college for training teachers, especially in France and, in the past, in England, the United States, Canada and the Philippines.
5. An educational organization that carries out teaching by mail.
6. A school or class for young children, usually between the ages of 4 and 6, immediately before they begin formal education.
7. A school for the training of priests, ministers, or rabbis.
8. A university or university division for advanced students who have obtained a bachelor's degree.
9. A secondary school at which students are trained in a trade or skill to be pursued as a career.
10. A system-oriented institution for young children that aims to develop the child's natural interests and activities rather than use formal teaching methods.
11. An institution of higher learning that provides education to undergraduates and awards bachelor's and sometimes master's degrees.
12. In the United States, a private secondary school that prepares students for college, often with academic requirements for entry.

COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY
SEMINARY
NORMAL SCHOOL
NURSERY SCHOOL
GRADUATE SCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN
PREP SCHOOL
CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL
PAROCHIAL SCHOOL
MONTESSORI
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Answers:

1. Nursery school
2. University
3. Parochial school
4. Normal school
5. Correspondence school
6. Kindergarten
7. Seminary
8. Graduate school
9. Vocational school
10. Montessori
11. College
12. Prep (preparatory) school

Ratings :

superbrain!
11 – 12

excellent!
9 – 10

good!
8 – 10

The Fish Doctors

(from page 1)

University, where courses in fish medicine have become a more permanent part of the veterinary program.

"Sixty years ago, there weren't vets who did dogs and cats."

Despite the field's growth, especially through the 1990s, there are still few veterinarians who focus exclusively on fish. Only about 50 people across the United States have such a specialty, Lewbart said.

Fish love

"Vets around here just aren't trained to do fish," Cuje says. "When you go to vet school, it's not required."

At first, the focus of fish medicine was on pathology, said Scott Weber, the veterinarian for the New Jersey State Aquarium in Camden.

Dead fish from pet stores, hatcheries and fish farms would be examined to find out what killed them, or live fish would be sacrificed to track down parasite, viral or bacterial problems, he said.

But the field has changed, driven in part by the needs of public aquariums and the conservation of valuable species. Some sharks and smaller fish kept in captivity are endangered species and it is considered important to treat them for any maladies, veterinarians say.

The science is also being driven by desires of pet owners who are as attached to their fish as dog or cat owners.

House calls

"I think more and more people are willing to go beyond what we would have considered in the past," Weber said.

Weber, who has also been the doctor for fish farms in Arkansas, works closely with the University of Pennsylvania's veterinary hospital in Philadelphia, which provides a range of services and equipment.

Weber sometimes also receives calls from individuals seeking assistance. A pet owner from North Dakota sought treatment for a 12-inch piranha with a growth. A New Jersey resident called about skin lesions on a Japanese koi fish.

Weber tries to refer such calls to other veterinarians. But there aren't many to help out. That's where Cuje, while not yet a veterinarian, can step in.

"I do the field trips," said Cuje, who works under Weber's supervision as an intern at the aquarium and is studying for her biology degree at Monmouth University.

"He's the veterinarian," Cuje said. "I go and treat them."

AP

FISHY FEELING BETTER? Weber looks after a black sea bass after it was anesthesized for X-rays. ***AP***

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

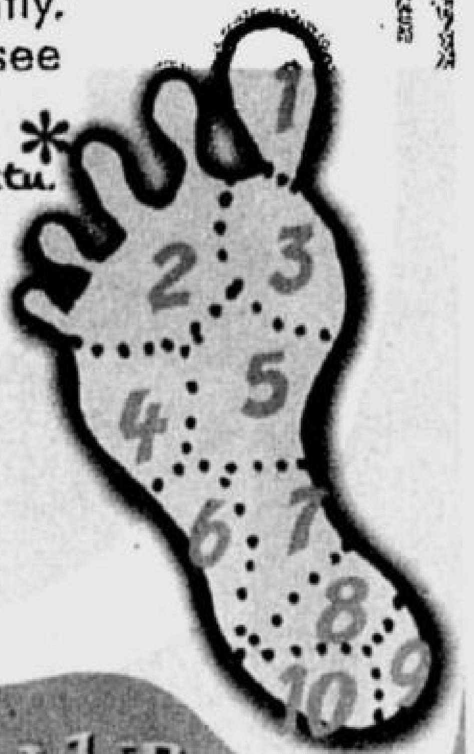
it's cool! it's fun! it's (almost) accurate! it's...

FOOT FORTUNE-TELLING!

Start with a volunteer's foot (hope it's clean). Press gently. Each area that tickles has a corresponding fortune -- see the foot chart on the right and below.

Footini the Great (a.k.a. Bernard)

1 You like taking long walks. Your next stroll will take you to Timbuktu.*
2 Most people think you'd look good with blue hair.
3 This spot sometimes smells like tuna. Only you know why.
4 Right now you have on your favourite underwear.
5 Your next pair of shoes will be new.
6 When you sing in the bathroom, someone always hears.
7 You burp. Loudly.
8 If aliens knew about you, they would make you President
9 You have a family member who thinks you're the cutest
10 This is one of your best features.



* Where is TIMBUKTU?

Unusual as the name may be, Timbuktu is a real place. A historic city in the west African country of Mali, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site!

"THE BEAUTIFUL MINARET OF A TIMBUKTU MOSQUE"

"TIMBUKTU" IS SAID TO MEAN "MOTHER WITH A LARGE NAVEL"

Match these place names to their countries!

antananarivo ➪
kyushu ➪
northumberland ➪
budapest ➪

scotland
malagasy republic
japan
hungary

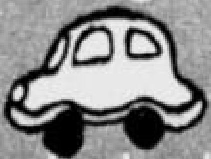
answers: antananarivo, malagasy r.; kyushu, japan; northumberland, scotland; budapest, hungary

IT'S THE BIGGEST AND LOUDEST ANIMAL IN THE WORLD!

☑ your answer!

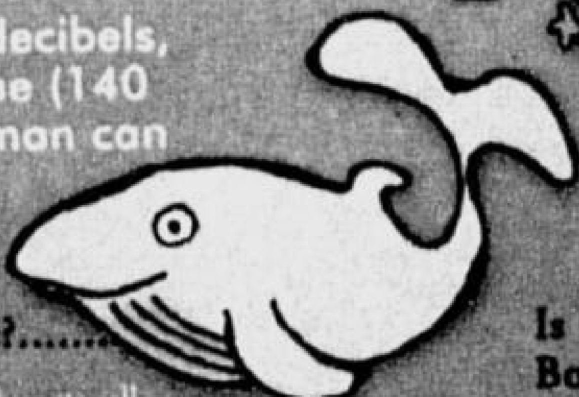
not her.....

This animal's average size is 80 feet, and weighs 120 tons. Its heart alone weighs 1,000 lbs and is as big as a Volkswagen car.



As for loudness, its call is 188 decibels, louder than a roaring jetplane (140 decibels). The average human can scream at 70 decibels.

☐ Is it the Mexican Singing Chicken? (note: very, very rare)


☐ Is it the Blue Whale?......

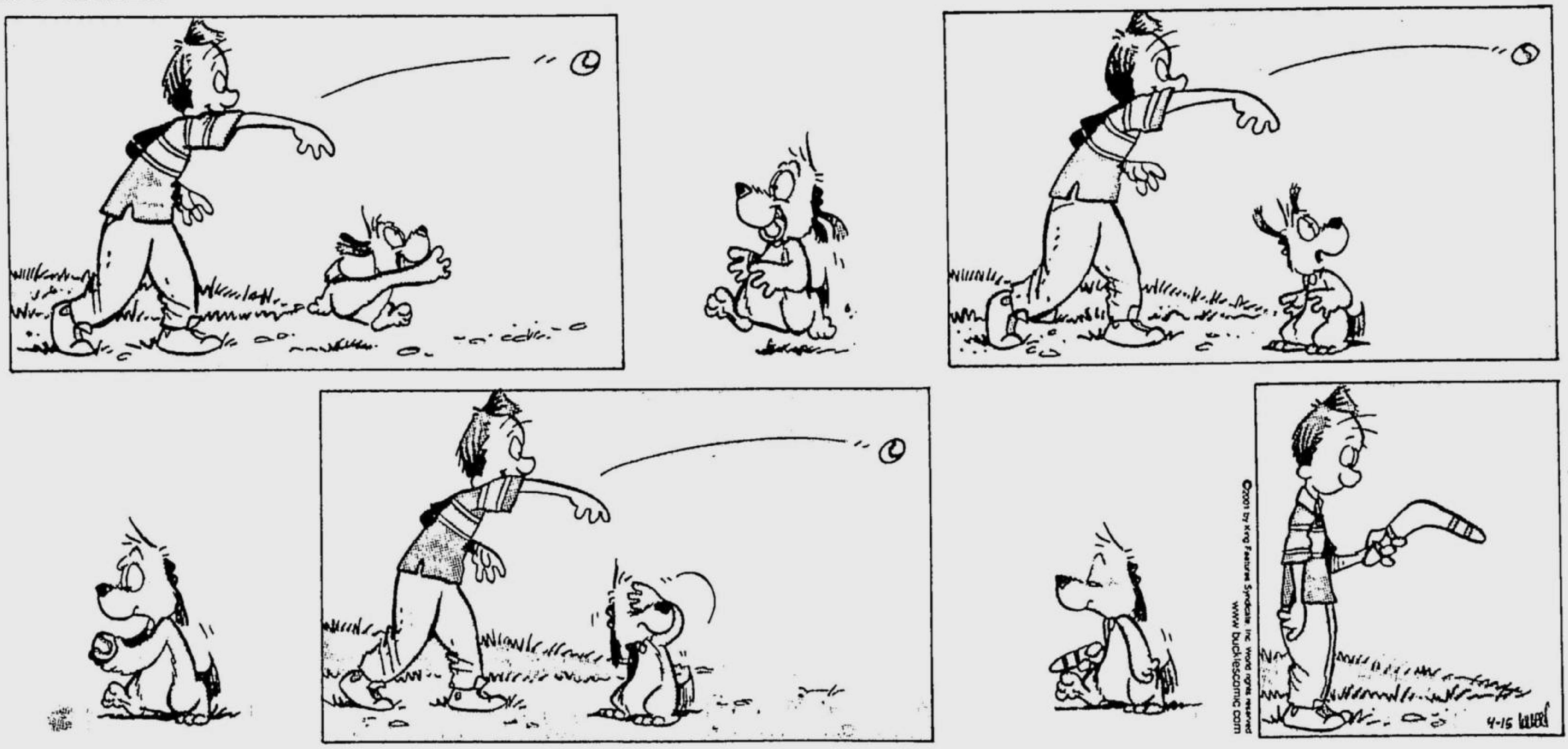
☐ Is it The Lunch Box creator's very own Auntie Helga?

ANSWER: blue whale!

learn more about this animal & hear its call on www.enchantedlearning.com

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT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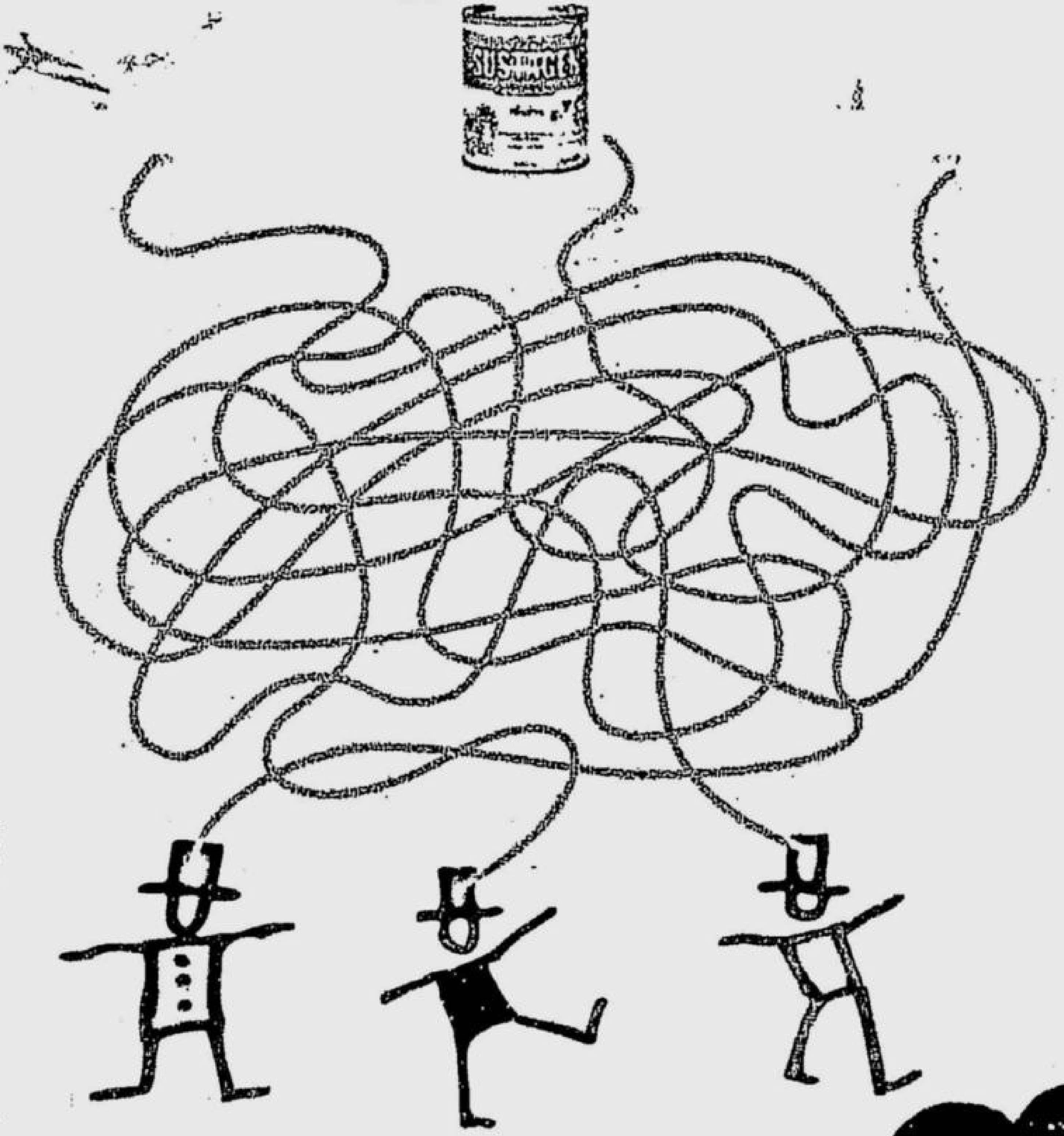
www.bucklescomic.com
4-15

ACTIVITY 1

WHO'S GOT THE SUSTAGEN*?

One of these 3 kids
actually have a can
of Sustagen.
By tracing the lines
leading to the can,
can you find out
who he is?



Susy Geno

ACTIVITY PAGE

Susy and Geno are serving up another page-full of fun,
games, puzzles and brain teasers for you
to figure out and enjoy!

ACTIVITY 2

FILL-UPS

Using the first letter of Susy and Geno's names,
fill up the blank spaces below,
using the clues provided.

S _ _ _ _ _ _ _
U _ _ _ _ _ _ _
S _ _ _ _ _
Y _ _ _
G _ _ _ _ _ _
E _ _ _ _ _
N _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
O _ _

1. Susy and Geno's favorite health drink
2. You use this to cover yourself from the sun
3. How is Susy related to Geno?
4. The yellow of an egg
5. A long-necked animal
6. A day in the Holy Week that falls on Sunday
7. What do we get from nutritious foods?
8. A big-eyed bird

ANSWERS: (1) Sustagen (2) Umbrella (3) Sister (4) Yolk (5) Giraffe (6) Easter (7) Nutrition (8) Owl

FOR TODDLERS
1 - 5 YEARS

FOR KIDS
6 YEARS & UP

SUSTAGEN
CHOCOLATE
MindPro
SUSTAGEN
CHOCOLATE
MindPro

MeadJohnson
Nutritionals
where good health begins.